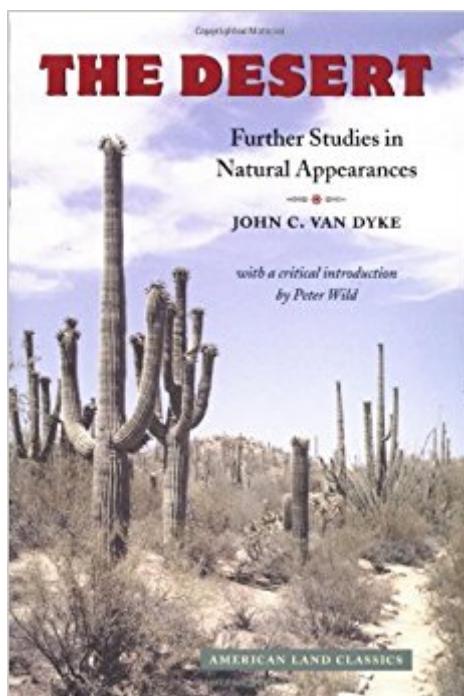


The book was found

The Desert: Further Studies In Natural Appearances (American Land Classics)



Synopsis

Since its first appearance in 1901, John C. Van Dyke's *The Desert* has been considered one of the classics of American nature writing. Before its publication, Americans thought of deserts as scorpion-infested wastelands—*with names like Devil's Domain and the Lands That God Forgot*. All this changed as *The Desert* drew attention to the extraordinary beauty that existed in the American West: rolling sand dunes, golden vistas, vibrant sunsets, and remarkable plant and animal life. Van Dyke's book captured the nation's imagination at a time when attitudes about the land were changing. It provided a vocabulary that continues to be used as appreciation of deserts increases and ever greater pressures lead to new calls to protect these fragile environments. With a critical introduction by Peter Wild, this edition offers new insights—and reveals some surprising truths—about this legendary author and his best known work. Van Dyke was not, it seems, the "plaster saint of the desert." He was not entirely honest with his readers about the journeys that inspired the book, and his natural history includes serious errors. But in this more informed reading, Wild notes, Van Dyke "emerges as all the more fascinating a writer and his famous book becomes far more intriguing than most readers have imagined through the decades." As the centennial of its publication approaches and the complex story behind its long success is finally told, this new edition of *The Desert* reveals an equally complex and dramatic narrative: our changing relationship with the American landscape. "Van Dyke came at just the right time... No sooner had Americans conquered the wilderness, cut down the forests, and slaughtered the buffalo than the romantic nation began sentimentalizing the past, longing for what it had just destroyed."—from the Introduction

Book Information

Series: American Land Classics

Paperback: 312 pages

Publisher: Johns Hopkins University Press (August 12, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0801862248

ISBN-13: 978-0801862243

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.7 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,063,926 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #66 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Ecosystems > Deserts #281 in Books > Travel > Specialty Travel >

Customer Reviews

John C. Van Dyke was a professor of art history at Rutgers University and the author of many books, including *The Open Spaces*, *The Mountain*, and *Autobiography*. Peter Wild is a professor of English at the University of Arizona. His books include *The Secret Life of John C. Van Dyke* and *Daggett: Life in a Mojave Frontier Town*.

Astounding descriptions of the allure of the desert. Gary J. George author of "Mojave Desert Sanctuary".

This review is regarding the Kindle edition, not the book. I was excited to find one of my favorite books in Kindle form until I purchased it. The text is all justified, with no line breaks, making for a very frustrating and unpleasant reading experience. Until a better formatted version is out, I suggest sticking with the paper version.

Before Mary Austin and Edward Abbey came John Van Dyke, an art history professor who was the first to write about desert appreciatively from an aesthetic viewpoint. Some of the passages of desert description in this book have never been surpassed. Van Dyke also tackles the questions of desert ecology and evolution, although his expositions of those are less reliable than his aesthetic observations since he wasn't a scientist or a naturalist. With an introduction by Peter Wild, a leading scholar of desert writing, this is the edition of Van Dyke's classic to have. And nobody can begin to understand the North American southwest desert without reading Van Dyke, despite his sometimes outdated science.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Desert: Further Studies in Natural Appearances (American Land Classics) The Desert: Further Studies in Natural Appearances (1902) A Natural History of the Sonoran Desert (Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum) Desert Exile: The Uprooting of a Japanese American Family (Classics of Asian American Literature) The Further Adventures of Rush Revere: Rush Revere and the Brave Pilgrims / Rush Revere and the First Patriots / Rush Revere and the American Revolution / Rush Revere and the Star-Spangled Banner Mojave Mysteries: Real Tales of Unknown Creatures, UFOs, Ghosts, Devil Cults, Giants and Mysterious Murders in the California Desert (Desert Paranormal Series Book 1) Desert dream, desert romance: The history, style & food of the Royal Palms Resort and

Spa Desert Gardens A Photographic Tour of the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum In the Heart of the Desert: The Spirituality of the Desert Fathers and Mothers (Treasures of the World's Religions) AV-8B Harrier II Units of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm (Combat Aircraft) War in the Persian Gulf - Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm (August 1990–March 1991) With It or in It: Desert Shield and Desert Storm from the Loader's Hatch Sonoran Desert Food Plants: Edible Uses for the Desert's Wild Bounty The Palm Springs Diner's Bible: A Restaurant Guide for Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, Indian Wells, La Quinta, Bermuda Dunes, Indio, and Desert Hot Springs, 2nd Edition The Palm Spring Diner's Bible: A Restaurant Guide for Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, Indian Wells, La Quinta, Bermuda Dunes, Indio, and Desert Hot Springs The Sheltering Desert: A Classic Tale of Escape and Survival in the Namib Desert Native American Medicine: Discover the Natural Healing Secrets and Remedies for Your Mind, Body and Spirit (Native American Medicine, Natural Remedies, ... Treatment, Herbal, Naturopathy Book 1) This Land Is Our Land: A History of American Immigration Natural Relief from Asthma (Natural Health Guide) (Alive Natural Health Guides) Natural Alternative to Vaccination (Natural Health Guide) (Alive Natural Health Guides)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)