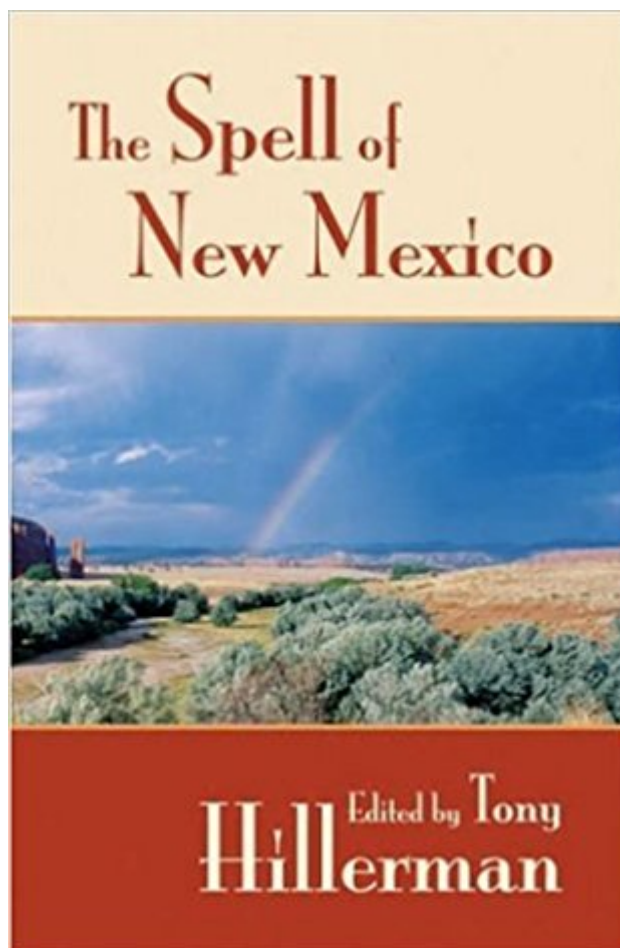


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The Spell Of New Mexico



Synopsis

A rich gathering of essays that evoke the unique and mysterious appeal New Mexico has had for some of the twentieth century's best-known writers. Included are selections by Mary Austin, Oliver La Farge, Conrad Richter, D.H. Lawrence, C.G. Jung, Winfield Townley Scott, John DeWitt McKee, Ernie Pyle, Harvey Fergusson, and Lawrence Clark Powell. Hillerman's preface and introduction are choice specimens of his incisive humor and his own deep love of the state. Should be required reading for all those who call themselves New Mexican.

James Arnholz

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I love New Mexico. I actually fell in love with the state before visiting it through Hillerman's mystery novels. Having been to Navajoland, Los Alamos, Espanola, Santa Fe, etc. but not having the occasion to return, I bought this book to bring me back there as an armchair traveler. The word pictures created by the different authors are so vivid that I feel I am back there when I read them. Hillerman's foreword is an excellent description not only of the book but of his love for New Mexico. Sadly, Hillerman passed away in October of this year. Happily, his works and New Mexico, endure.

Four visits to Albuquerque and surrounding areas have convinced me that I, too, have fallen under the spell of New Mexico as vividly described by the writers of this book. The book becomes especially meaningful to those who have visited New Mexico, but could also inspire others to make that first journey which will likely not be the last!!

Tony Hillerman is a wonderful author, who truly understands the Land of Enchantment. I haven't been home to New Mexico for over 10 years, yet when I read his work I am transported back and feel I've never left. I've always believed that later in life, when I'm ready to lay my bones down, I will return home to her. But in the meantime Hillerman takes me there, so no matter how far away I roam, I am never too far from home. Thanks Mr. Hillerman, I am grateful.

Not for nothing is New Mexico called the Land of Enchantment. The mountains, deserts, sunsets, and other features of the landscape have drawn visitors and settlers for generations. This collection of twelve essays discusses not just some aspects of the land, its people, and its history, but the effect that New Mexico had on the essayists. My favorite in this collection was the Winfield Townley Scott essay that took the reader through the seasons month by month for a year, describing what fall, winter, spring, and summer were like in Santa Fe. Fall is my favorite season there--I had one of my best vacations ever in 2003 when I visited the northern parts of the state in October. If I couldn't live in Texas, I would be happiest living in New Mexico. This book would convey to those who have never visited the Southwest why many across the decades have found the Land of Enchantment so alluring.

Although many of these essays are very old, native and adopted New Mexicans (like myself) will find that these authors share many of one's own feelings and emotions about the state. My favorite is the essay in which the author wrote that his family cheered each time they crossed the border into New Mexico in their car after being gone for a while. This is EXACTLY what my family and I have done since we began our "love affair" with the Land of Enchantment almost 50 years ago!

The book was in very good shape, originally published quite some time ago by University of New Mexico Press, it is a compilation of several essays on New Mexico. It is charming and quite readable. I want to move to that place and time right now. Unfortunately, New Mexico has grown quite a bit since then and I still intend to retire there.

Very interesting series of essays on New Mexico. I plan to travel there this summer and this little book gives an Easterner like me a nice overview of what to expect. This is a unique place and I think i now will have a better appreciation of the unique qualities of this part of the world. Highly recommend

Tony Hillerman was such a wonderful writer. I love New Mexico. This book has bits from writings by several authors who lived and or wrote about New Mexico. They were picked by Mr. Hillerman and he did a great job.

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