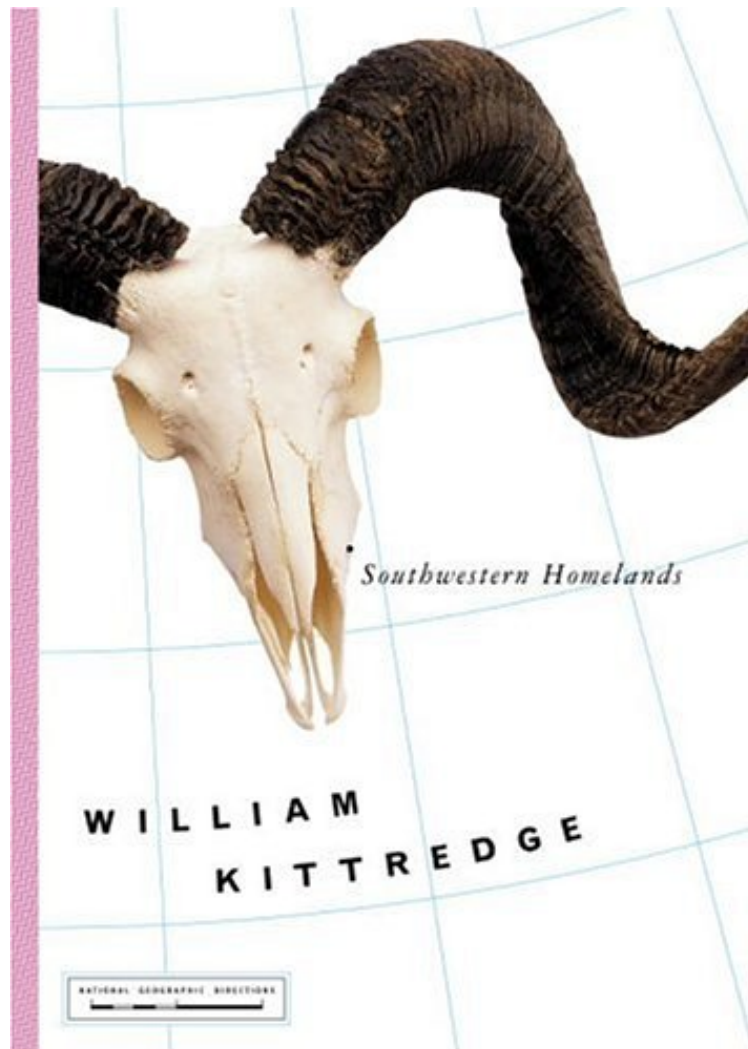


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William Kittredge

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William Kittredge : Southwestern Homelands (National Geographic Directions) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Southwestern Homelands (National Geographic Directions):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. art for the everyday world...By James D. MatchettI was first exposed to the Quiltmakers of Gees Bend while in architecture. One of my teachers shared a video of a documentary of the quiltmakers and I remember being struck with the profound appreciation of how even the bleakest of environments, the human spirit can find a way to express itself in the most beautiful ways available. The quiltmakers are all impoverished, poor, black women from Gees Bend, AL and are no more than one generation removed from slavery. None have had formal artistic training or any schooling on primary, secondary, or complimentary colors - yet

collectively, they have generated what many consider the most compelling collection of modern art in America. The most compelling thing about the quilts are the incredibly personal stories that motivated the quiltmaker as they composed their masterpieces. Some of the stories will move you to tears as these brave women bare their souls in explaining how they found within themselves the ability to create such inspirational pieces of art. Last I heard, they had received funding for a national tour and had been to the nation's most prestigious museums, namely the Milwaukee Art Museum (by Santiago Calatrava for all you architecture fans). If you should have the chance to obtain a copy of the documentary, any book with their work, or have the privilege to view their work in person - I would highly recommend it! A true testament of the human spirit and our innate desire to express our innermost, personal feelings!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Mootie Wonderful book... 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Memories which must be kept 'real'
By Sarah K. Bruner This book is already a treasure and one I can love and then bequeath to another art and tradition and people lover... At the end of October in 2003, I was in Milwaukee to see this Quilt exhibition. Friends of Art from Indiana University drove to Chicago and then on to the marvelous museum in Milwaukee to experience the Quilts. What an awakening! That day I bought a Video. Since that time I have purchased the DVD and (when I found it online) the hardback book *The Quilts of Gee's Bend!* What a treasure! I am overjoyed to have this book and to have had the viewing experience! [I also use the USPS stamps and the book of postcards!] --Sarah K. Robinson

For part of each of the last twenty years, much-loved essayist and fiction writer William Kittredge has ventured to the storied desert landscape of the American Southwest and immersed himself in the region's wide-ranging wonders and idiosyncrasies. Here Kittredge brings all this experience to bear as he takes us on a rewarding tour of the territory that runs from Santa Fe to Yuma, and from the Grand Canyon on south through Phoenix and Tucson to Nogales. It is a region where urban sprawl abuts desert expanse, where Native American pueblos compete for space with agribusiness cotton plantations, and where semi-defunct mining towns slowly give way to new-age hippie gardening and crafts enclaves. As part-time resident and full-time observer, William Kittredge acquaints us with one of the country's most vital and perpetually evolving regions. Populated with die-hard desert rats on the banks of the Colorado, theoretical physicists in Albuquerque, Hopi mothers and their daughters, and renegade punk-rock kids sleeping in the streets, *Southwestern Homelands* is a book as much about the legacies of a territory's colorful past as it is about the alternately exciting and daunting complexities of its immediate future.

From *Booklist* Travel, Kittredge writes, "is a technique for staying in touch, a wake-up call, not a diversion but a responsibility." A renowned fiction writer and essayist last heard in book form in *The Nature of Generosity* (2000), he sums up his 20-plus years of exploring and opening his Oregon-bred heart to the Southwest in a quietly powerful blend of natural and human history. A region of stark beauty riven by violent injustice along the border with Mexico, and rendered ecologically precarious as the desert is asked to support an ever-swelling population, the Southwest exemplifies resiliency and toughness, inspiring Kittredge to ruminate over what constitutes a homeland and how such interweavings of place and feeling change over time. Humble and frank in his role as both outsider and one of many writers stoked to eloquence by the grit and grace of southwestern life, including the trailblazer Edward Abbey, Charles Bowden, Jimmy Santiago Baca, Gary Paul Nabhan, and Simon Ortiz, Kittredge is an ideal guide not only to the complexities of this evocative homeland but also to the psyche itself. Donna Seaman
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About the Author William Kittredge has published fiction and essays in such magazines as *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Harper's*, *Rolling Stone*, *Outside*, *TriQuarterly*, *North American*, and *Iowa*. A graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and a professor of creative writing at the University of Montana, Kittredge's works include *Hole in the Sky: A Memoir*, *Owning it All: Essays*, and the story collections *The Van Gogh Fields* and *We Are Not in This Together*.