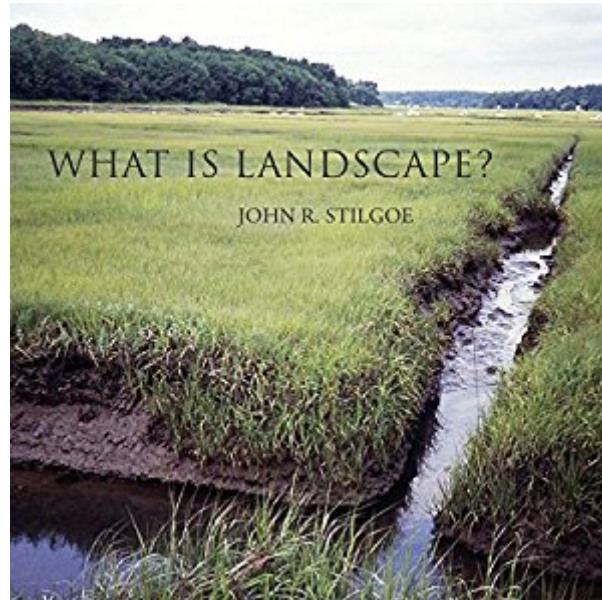




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What Is Landscape?



Synopsis

In *What Is Landscape?* John R. Stilgoe maps the discovery of landscape by putting words to things, zeroing in on landscape's essence but also leading sideways expeditions through such sources as children's picture books, folklore, deeds, antique terminology, out-of-print dictionaries, and conversations with locals. ("What is that?" "Well, it's not really a slough, not really, it's a bayou...") He offers a highly original, cogent, compact, gracefully written narrative lexicon of landscape as word, concept, and path to discoveries. *What Is Landscape?* is an invitation to walk, to notice, to ask: to see a sandcastle with a pinwheel at the beach and think of Dutch windmills - icons of triumph, markers of territory won from the sea; to walk in the woods and be amused by the Elizabethans' misuse of the Latin *silvaticus* (people of the woods) to coin the word savages; to see in a suburban front lawn a representation of the meadow of a medieval freehold. Discovering landscape is good exercise for body and for mind. This book is an essential guide and companion to that exercise - to understanding, literally and figuratively, what landscape is.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 7 hours 14 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: University Press Audiobooks

Audible.com Release Date: January 24, 2017

Language: English

ASIN: B01MR8AA6Z

Best Sellers Rank: #80 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Arts & Entertainment > Architecture
#1151 in Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Landscape

Customer Reviews

a totally unique book for a change, it may forever alter your perceptions

Like all of Stilgoe's work, this book is a delight to read!

This book is for mental excursions, glimpses of past times, and casual lectures. The lectures come from a fund of knowledge that the author must have accumulated over many years. He is a student of etymology (word history) with a shelf of old and historic dictionaries. Starting with all aspects of

the lands we walk, including seashores, farm fields and bridges, he tells what they encompass and how they got their names. But he also encourages the reader to simply pay more attention to what he sees around him. Look up from your phone. Enjoy the natural wonders and ponder what man has done to alter nature. It isn't all bad.

a little too academic, especially from a writer who is known about detailed about landscape. This type of discussion has been lost and dismissed in current academia, but could be of use to fiction writers. Not this book. Too philosophical; too much defense of the discipline and not enough talk about how landscapes marvel and move us.

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