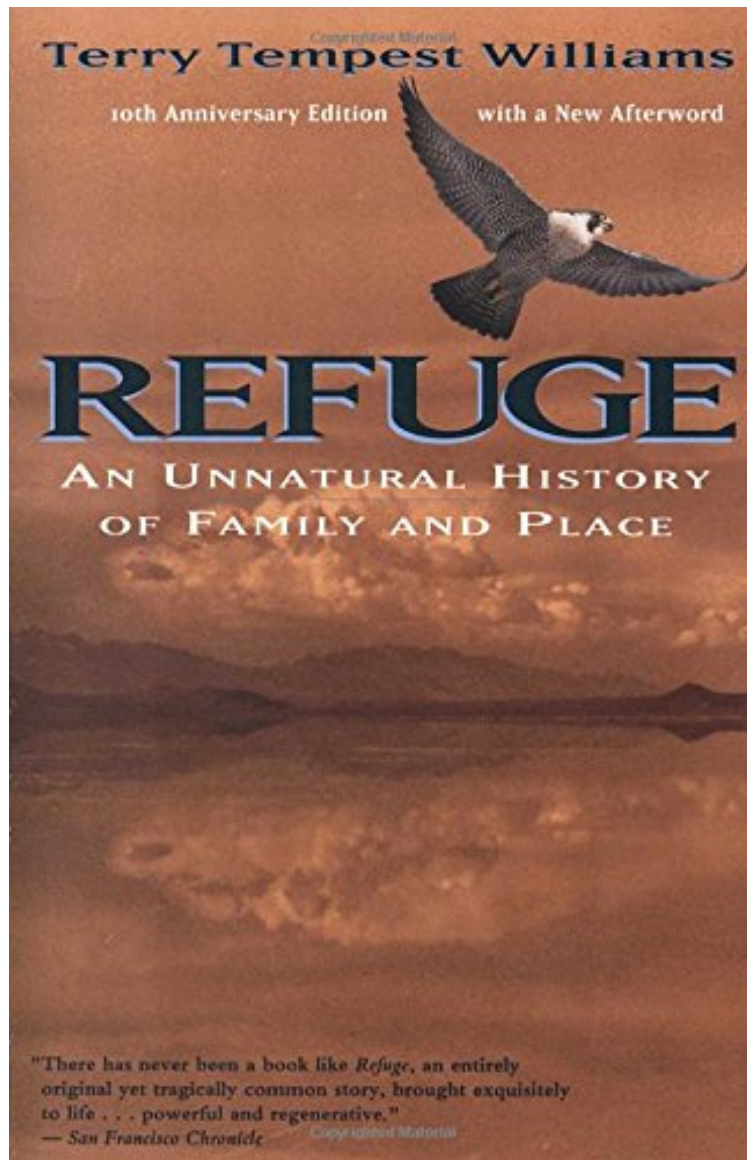


(Download free pdf) Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place

## Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place

Terry Tempest Williams

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#45487 in Books Terry Tempest Williams 1992-09-01 1992-09-01Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .70 x 5.20l, .57 #File Name: 0679740244336 pagesRefuge An Unnatural History of Family and Place | File size: 60.Mb

**Terry Tempest Williams : Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I read this book for a class but connected to ...By AlexisI read this book for a class but connected to it strongly. I gave it as a gift to my mother in the hope it may be interesting to her in

the aftermath of similar life situations to Williams.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful, edifying readBy M. DeAnn MorrisI am from the very spots in Utah that this author describes so eloquently. I loved reading about my old haunts. It was lovely the way Ms Williams interwove the environment into the story of her family.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Sad, but great nonfictionBy greenwriterReally a heartwarming book. is probably the cheapest place to find this book. I got it new and kind of wished I would have got it used to save a little cash. Williams is a wonderful environmental writer. It is so interesting how she connects illness with the devastation affecting her beloved Great Salt Lake bird refuge. Being non-religious myself, I thought Williams really educated the reader on mormonism and her beliefs. It was eye-opening to have a writer who is not trying to crame their religion down our throats. I definitely cried multiple times throughout this book. It also sparked an interest in birds for me.

In the spring of 1983 Terry Tempest Williams learned that her mother was dying of cancer. That same season, The Great Salt Lake began to rise to record heights, threatening the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge and the herons, owls, and snowy egrets that Williams, a poet and naturalist, had come to gauge her life by. One event was nature at its most random, the other a by-product of rogue technology: Terry's mother, and Terry herself, had been exposed to the fallout of atomic bomb tests in the 1950s. As it interweaves these narratives of dying and accommodation, *Refuge* transforms tragedy into a document of renewal and spiritual grace, resulting in a work that has become a classic.

.com The only constants in nature are change and death. Terry Tempest Williams, a naturalist and writer from northern Utah, has seen her share of both. The pages of *Refuge* resound with the deaths of her mother and grandmother and other women from cancer, the result of the American government's ongoing nuclear-weapons tests in the nearby Nevada desert. You won't find the episode in the standard history textbooks; the Feds wouldn't admit to conducting the tests until women and men in Utah, Nevada, and northwestern Arizona took the matter to court in the mid-1980s, and by then thousands of Americans had fallen victim to official technology. Parallel to her account of this devastation, Williams describes changes in bird life at the sanctuaries dotting the shores of the Great Salt Lake as water levels rose during the unusually wet early 1980s and threatened the nesting grounds of dozens of species. In this world of shattered eggs and drowned shorebirds, Williams reckons with the meaning of life, alternating despair and joy.From Publishers WeeklyUtah naturalist Williams ponders the loss of her mother to cancer and the disastrous flooding of a bird refuge in a moving account of the interrelations between personal tragedy and natural history. Author tour. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalWilliams, a naturalist at the Utah Museum of Natural History in Salt Lake City, uses the rise and fall of Great Salt Lake and the fluctuations in wild bird populations that inhabit or migrate through the ecosystem as a personal metaphor. Her diary-like personal reflections cover such issues as helping family members through the traumatic process of living and dying with cancer. She also reflects upon women's place within the Mormon Church and touches on citizens' conflicting civic responsibilities as stewards and exploiters of the earth. Finally, she ponders federal responsibility for irradiating Utah land and people during 11 years of above-ground atomic testing. Williams's book is difficult to pigeonhole because she wrestles with a wide range of ethical questions in her struggle to find understanding. Her book may be of particular interest to public libraries in Southwestern states.--Laurie Tynan, Montgomery Cty.Norristown P.L., Pa.Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.