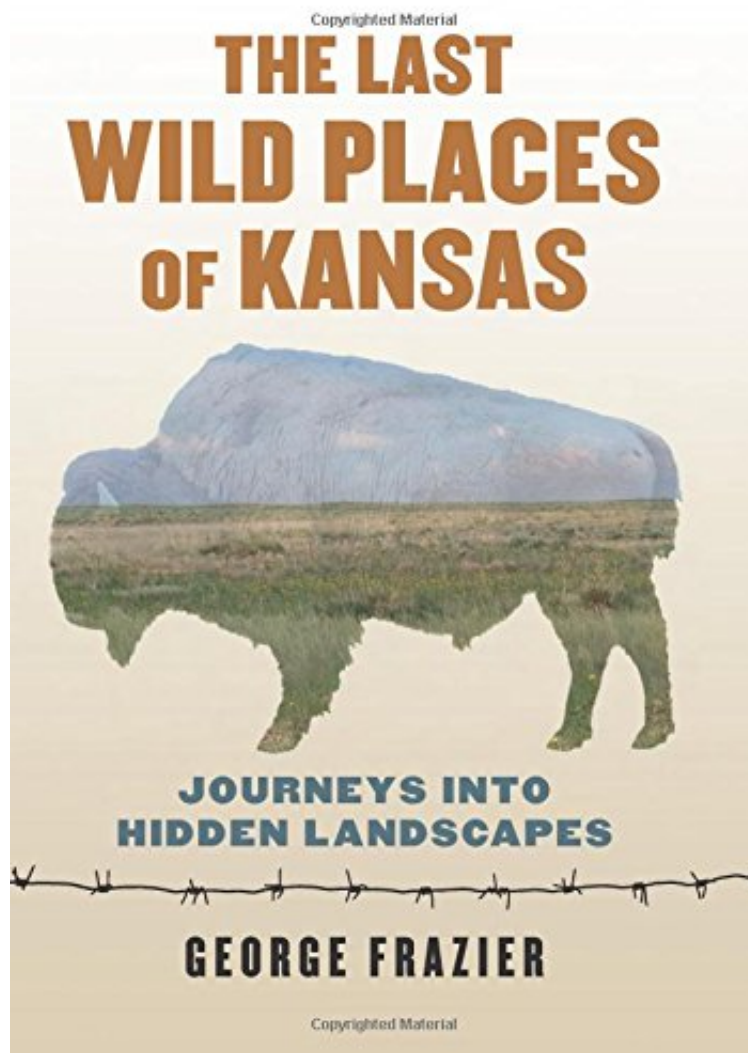


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# The Last Wild Places of Kansas: Journeys into Hidden Landscapes

*George Frazier*

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**George Frazier : The Last Wild Places of Kansas: Journeys into Hidden Landscapes** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Last Wild Places of Kansas: Journeys into Hidden Landscapes:

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EXPLORERS CREATING ROLLING INTEREST. THE AUTHOR TAKES YOU ON A JOURNEY FROM PATHS ON PRAIRIES TO A CANOE FLOAT ON THE KAW RIVER THAT WILL MAKE YOU WONDER IF YOU EVER KNEW KANSAS AT ALL. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Lawrence Stoskopf Good read 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Read and learn about Kansas. By Ted D. Ayres An excellent book that gives great insight to the history and geography of Kansas.

Winner of the Midwest Book Award, Kansas Notable Book Award, Hamlin Garland Prize, and the Ferguson Book Award Since the last wild bison found refuge on the back of a nickel, the public image of natural Kansas has progressed from Great American Desert to dust bowl to flyover country that has been landscaped, fenced, and farmed. But look a little harder, George Frazier suggests, and you can find the last places where tenacious stretches of prairie, forest, and wetland cheat death and incubate the DNA of lost, wild America. Documenting three years spent roaming the state in search of these hidden treasures, *The Last Wild Places of Kansas* is Frazier's idiosyncratic and eye-opening travelogue of nature's secret holdouts in the Sunflower State. These are places where extirpated mammalian species are making comebacks; where flying squirrels leap between centuries-old trees lit by the unearthly green glow of foxfire; where cold springs feed ancient watercress pools; where the ice moon paints the Smoky Hill with memories of the buffalo wolf and the lonesome rattle of false indigo; where the blue lid of the sky forms a vacuum seal over treeless pastel hills, orange in winter; where bluestem rises. Some are impossible to find on maps. Most are magnificently bereft of anything beneficial to 99.9 percent of modern America. True wildernesses they may not be, but at the correct angle of light, when the wind blows pollen carrying biological memories of the glaciers, these places are a crack between the worlds, portals to the lost buffalo wilderness. En route Frazier takes us from the unexpected wilds of the Kansas City suburbs to the Cimarron National Grassland in the far southwestern corner of the state. He visits ancient springs, shares a beer with prairie dog hunters, and fails in his mission to canoe the upper Marais des Cygnes—a trip that requires permission from every landowner on the route. Along the way we encounter a host of curious characters—ranchers, farmers, Native Americans, explorers, wildlife experts, and outdoor enthusiasts—all fellow travelers in a quest to know, preserve, and share the last wild places of Kansas.

"George Frazier takes you to some little known and under-appreciated natural spots in Kansas. His heartfelt affection and evocative descriptions will make you want to hit the road and experience these places for yourself."—Rex Buchanan, Director of Kansas Geological Survey "This fine book seeks out remnants of unscripted natural loveliness within a state where the percentage of public land is scarcely plural—he puts it at 2% of the 82,000 square miles that stretch from the shortgrass of the Cimarron desert to the sprawl of Johnson County. Natural and human history are layered here, layers of deposition that Frazier lovingly sifts through. Witty, determined, and generous with what he finds, Frazier reclaims the beauty of understated and forgotten. I love visiting these places with him."—Elizabeth Dodd, author of *Horizon's Lens: My Time on the Turning World* About the Author George Frazier is a software developer and writer whose work has appeared in such venues as *Canoe Kayak* and *Wild Earth*.