



Summer: A Spiritual Biography of the Season

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Explore the rich vibrancy of summer and reflect on how nature teaches us to value time?in this lush collection of reflections by our greatest writers. ?Summer has gone by so fast, ? we often say?the only season for which we say that. Summer does seem to make us keenly aware of time. In our vacations, we step out of time. Watching our gardens, we see the progress of time. Seeing the geese come honking back, we are aware of the passing of time. In essays, poems, and meditations organized around themes of time and our responses to it, twenty-five writers consider summer and its spiritual meanings. Contributors include Anne Lamott, Luci Shaw, Ray Bradbury, Mary Gordon, Richard Selzer, Thomas Lynch, Celia Thaxter, Robert Clark, Michael Pollan, Francis Bacon, Jim Heynen, and Emily Dickinson.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. If at their most basic level anthologies are simply a matter of taste, editors Schmidt and Felch fashion a sumptuous banquet with this, their third spiritual biography of a season (*Autumn and Winter*). These pieces are not *about* summer so much as they *embody* summer, a season of heat and reach that expands the heart. These (mostly prose) selections lift up an exquisite wholeness found within an everyday sophistication. As Mary Oliver wrote of a summer morning in the excerpted *Long Life*: "As I say, it was the most casual of moments, not mystical as the word is usually meant, for there was no vision, or anything extraordinary at all, but only a sudden awareness of the citizenry of all things within one world." Oliver resides in equal company alongside the other "ordinary" accounts of Anne Lamott building a sand castle with her son, N. Scott Momaday visiting his deceased grandmother's house and G.K. Chesterton doodling away an afternoon. The volume synergizes such considerable talents, structuring them within five themes: play and leisure, tillage and cultivation, family and community, nature and grace, retreat and return. Each section includes introductory material as well as a recipe, a prayer and, quite fittingly, a psalm. For fans of nature and literature, this thinking person's anthology is a must have. (*June*)
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About the Author

Gary Schmidt teaches literature at Calvin College. He is coeditor of *Winter: A Spiritual Biography of the Season* and *Autumn: A Spiritual Biography of the Season* (both SkyLight Paths). He is also author of *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy*, a Newbery Honor book; *Mara's Stories: Glimmers in the Darkness*, a Fanfare 2002 Horn Book honor list book; *Straw into Gold*; and, with Lawrence Kushner, *In God's Hands*.

Susan M. Felch teaches literature at Calvin College and is coeditor of *Winter: A Spiritual Biography of the Season* and *Autumn: A Spiritual Biography of the Season*. She also edited *The Collected Works of Anne Vaughan Lock* and *Bakhtin and Religion*.

Barry Moser, one of the foremost illustrators working today, has illustrated many books for adults and children, including The Pennyroyal Caxton edition of the *King James Bible* and *Lewis Carroll's Alice: Through the Looking-Glass and What Alice Found There*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kelly Blow:

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Dennis Utley:

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Anne Young:

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