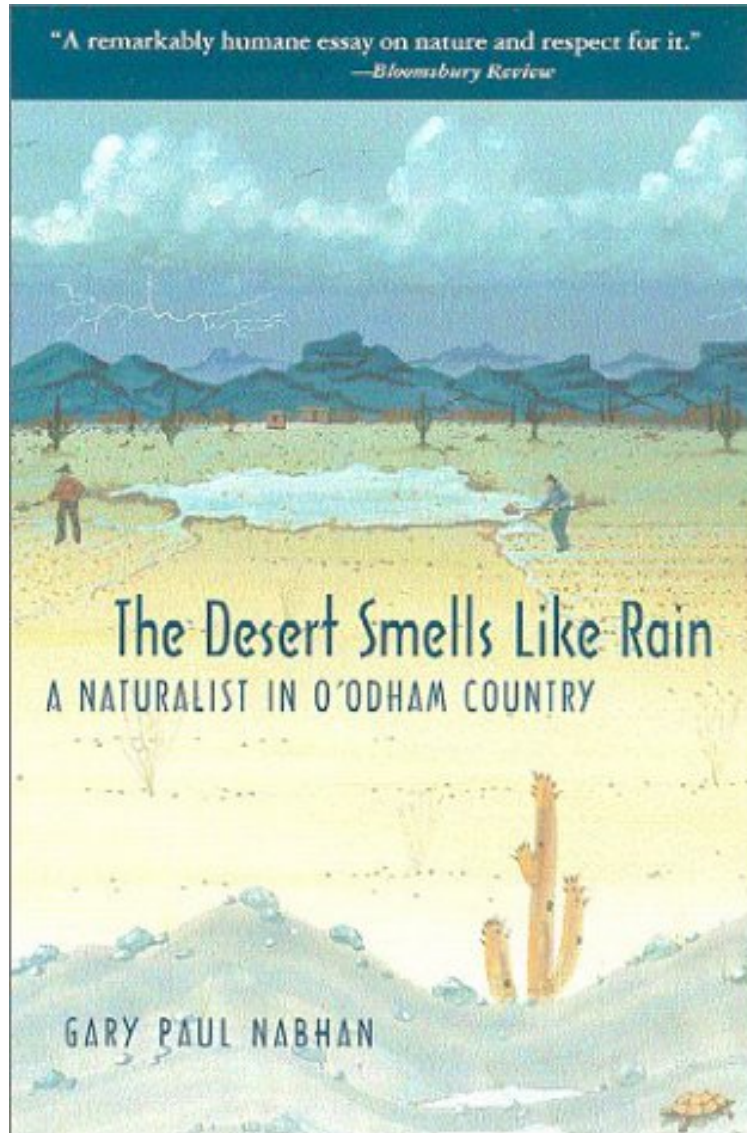


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The Desert Smells Like Rain: A Naturalist in O'odham Country

Gary Paul Nabhan

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Gary Paul Nabhan : The Desert Smells Like Rain: A Naturalist in O'odham Country before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Desert Smells Like Rain: A Naturalist in O'odham Country:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. ... resident of this area of Arizona I learned a great deal about the Indian cultureBy Maryanna HubbardBeing a winter resident of this area of Arizona I learned a great deal about the Indian culture. Despite the book's having been written in the early 80's it is relevant today as the impotence of water

conservation becomes greater than ever. I sent the book to my grandson, an environmental engineer senior, for the discussion of Indian agriculture was so interesting and informative. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy winterdoes it job0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great book for those interested in O'odhamBy Richard A. BrownI really liked the book. It was about real O'odham (formerly called Papago) Native Americans and how they lived in the Sonoran Desert.

Longtime residents of the Sonoran Desert, the Tohono O'odham people have spent centuries living off the land that most modern citizens of southern Arizona consider totally inhospitable. Ethnobotanist Gary Nabhan has lived with the Tohono O'odham, long known as the Papagos, observing the delicate balance between these people and their environment. Bringing O'odham voices to the page at every turn, he writes elegantly of how they husband scant water supplies, grow crops, and utilize wild edible foods. Woven through his account are coyote tales, O'odham children's impressions of the desert, and observations on the political problems that come with living on both sides of an international border. Whether visiting a sacred cave in the Baboquivari Mountains or attending a saguaro wine-drinking ceremony, Nabhan conveys the everyday life and extraordinary perseverance of these desert people in a book that has become a contemporary classic of environmental literature.

People often find science boring and ill written. Not in this book. Here the reader is lured into botany, ethnology, hydrology, and a couple of million acres by vivid writing, good pictures, and a beautifully produced book. . . . Anyone ignorant of the desert should begin their cure here. Tucson Citizen The humor, spice, charm, insight, and compassion with which Gary Paul Nabhan weaves his tale make for enjoyable reading. Rio Grande Sun Nabhan's point is that we transplanted desert dwellers have a great deal to learn from longtime, environmentally conscious inhabitants if we are not to destroy our fragile home. . . . A remarkably humane essay on nature and respect for it. Bloomsbury The Desert Smells Like Rain offers a remarkable insight, sensitive but unsentimental, combining the sound perceptions of a scientist with ecological concerns, matching humor and a sense of human frailty with tentative hope for the future. High Country News His eyes are those of a scientist, his prose and vision a poet's: spare, evocative, respectful of both facts and mysteries. Orion Nature Quarterly