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In Wildness Is The Preservation Of The World



**"IN WILDNESS IS THE
PRESERVATION OF THE WORLD"**

FROM HENRY DAVID THOREAU PHOTOGRAPHS BY ELIOT PORTER



Synopsis

“Photography is a strong tool, a propaganda device, and a weapon for the defense of the environment...and therefore for the fostering of a healthy human race and even very likely for its survival.” — Eliot Porter, 1962

Celebrating the 50-year anniversary of the first publication of “In Wildness Is the Preservation of the World” by Eliot Porter, AMMO Books is honored to present a newly restored version of one of photography’s most beloved and bestselling titles. In 1962, photographer Eliot Porter and the Sierra Club founder, David Brower, published this bestselling, and now long-out-of-print, classic monograph that has often been referred to as “the very first coffee table book” ever published. Porter masterfully created and paired his color photographs of the New England woods with passages by writer Henry David Thoreau. Both Porter and Thoreau — although they lived a century apart — constantly worked to preserve Nature and protect it from manmade interference. The finished “collaboration” arrived in an era when environmental causes were not in the public consciousness, and yet the book became an overnight publishing success that lasted many decades with multiple print runs and formats. This AMMO Books edition features refined classic typography in the spirit of the original hardcover first edition, with stunning photo reproductions on recycled-content, fine paper stock. Along with a cloth cover with foil debossing, the book stays true to the original intentions and themes of that first edition, including all 73 brilliant color images lovingly restored for today’s printing technology. AMMO Books proudly releases the singular book that celebrates and rediscovers the intricacies and undeniable beauty of man’s relationship to the magnificent outdoors — a sentiment that has only grown more relevant in the 50 years since “In Wildness Is the Preservation of the World” was first published.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The original book published by the Sierra Club back in the 1960s was gorgeous; this is a pale, sad shadow of that original. Considering the excellent quality of color printing now, there is no excuse to reproduce Porter's images so badly and inaccurately. Avoid this book. Porter's out of print books need to be re-released, but it is pointless to re-issue them with such horrible reproductions.

This 50th-anniversary reprint does Eliot Porter's legacy a real disservice. The reproduction of the original photos doesn't come close to their original sharpness, detail, and subtle color relationships. Given Porter's exacting standards, he never would have approved the mess that is presented here. These photos bear little resemblance to the originals, and communicate none of Eliot Porter's unique vision. I only wish offered the option of rating items a zero; I don't even want to give this one star!

This is a wonderful book pairing Thoreau's words with dozens of Eliot Porter's beautiful color photographs: the kind of book best perused in an overstuffed chair in a warm oak-paneled room, but which makes the reader feel such cozy comfort whatever the setting. Gazing into its expressive photos always prompts a twinge of guilt that I'm not out on a hike, camera in hand, taking pictures RIGHT NOW. However, I can't recommend this edition. The 1962 first edition includes a lengthy note about the Sierra Club's (and Porter's) search high and low for a printer up to his demanding standards for his color photographs, and the result was rich bright color on glossy stock with deep but detailed shadows. The slight yellowing of pages over the past 45 years adds a delightful warmish glow. This edition has thinner, less glossy paper, grayer shadows, differently interpreted color (usually, though not always, for the worse), and overall less emotional impact. Do yourself a favor and pick up a decent used copy of the 1962 edition.

I love the book. I had a copy many years ago, and forgot all about it until I saw an old copy gathering dust at a bookshelf at work. When I picked it up to look at it, I remembered instantly why I always had loved it so. Unfortunately, the copy was badly mildewed, so I went online to buy another copy. Much to my delight, I found a NEW copy for sale, and when I got it, it was much larger in size than the previous one. So the photos are much bigger, and the text easier to read. A great, classic

book for any nature lover. MUCH more necessary now than ever before to preserve what little wildness is left to us earthlings. I hope the message is not lost.

After hearing all about the beautiful photography paired with Thoreau's words, I had to find a copy of this book. I was so thrilled to discover this brand new edition, which has all the sophistication and integrity of the original edition, while also giving it a fresh new design and wonderful printing. This new version is the one to buy!!

This pathetic attempt to recreate the classic original of "In Wildness...." is the worst bit of publication failure I have ever seen. Either the Sierra Club or the Porter family should sue the socks off the inept, tasteless *minds* behind this horror show. I own a well preserved copy of the initial printing and to borrow from Mark Twain, the difference between that publication and this piece of C* \$ p is like the difference between the lightning and the lightning bug. My wife and I both reviewed this supposed reproduction and we came to the conclusion that the printers must have been terminally color blind. In short, if you haven't seen the original work you can't possibly imagine how horrifically this pathetic attempt has debased the incredibly beautiful initial printing. IMHO is doing itself no favors by pretending that this visual sludge is even in the same galaxy as the original.

Gorgeous photos by Eliot Porter, very high print quality, coffee table display quality book. Nice typography, and excellent quotes. This is an excellent introduction to Eliot Porter's work. Highly recommended.

A glorious mix of Eliot Porter's nature photography and Emerson's musings on nature and human nature. Sadly this Sierra Club version is out of print and a recently republished version is a weak substitute. Glad I could find a used volume in very good condition as a gift.

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