



Fire Season: Field Notes from a Wilderness Lookout

By *Philip Connors*

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“*Fire Season* both evokes and honors the great hermit celebrants of nature, from Dillard to Kerouac to Thoreau—and I loved it.”

—J.R. Moehringer, author of *The Tender Bar*

“[Connors’s] adventures in radical solitude make for profoundly absorbing, restorative reading.”

—Walter Kirn, author of *Up in the Air*

Phillip Connors is a major new voice in American nonfiction, and his remarkable debut, *Fire Season*, is destined to become a modern classic. An absorbing chronicle of the days and nights of one of the last fire lookouts in the American West, *Fire Season* is a marvel of a book, as rugged and soulful as Matthew Crawford’s bestselling *Shop Class as Soulcraft*, and it immediately places Connors in the august company of Edward Abbey, Annie Dillard, Aldo Leopold, Barry Lopez, and others in the respected fraternity of hard-boiled nature writers.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

For almost a decade, former Wall Street Journal reporter Connors has spent half a year keeping vigil over 20,000 square miles of desert, forest, and mountain chains from atop a tower 10,000 feet above sea level. One of a handful of seasoned, seasonal fire-watchers in New Mexico's Gila National Forest, Connors introduces us to his wilderness in this ruminative, lyrical, occasionally suspenseful account that bristles with the narrative energy and descriptive precision of Annie Dillard and dovetails between elegiac introspection and a history of his curious and lonely occupation. Poet Gary Snyder, environmental advocate Edward Abbey, and beat novelist Jack Kerouac once stood watch over the woods, but today, 90% of American lookout towers have been decommissioned, with only a few hundred remaining. The world at large intrudes in Connors's account of contented isolation only in a discussion of evolving forest fire-fighting policies, in which advocates of ruthlessly suppressing fires are pitted against a new generation of Forest Service professionals who choose, when it's safe, to let forest fires burn themselves out. (Apr.)

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Review

"What a wonderful book. Philip Connors went up to the mountaintop to serve as a lookout—and he has come down with a masterwork of close observation, deep reflection, and hard-won wisdom. This is an unforgettable reckoning with the American land."

Review

"Philip Connors's remarkable account of his seasons as a fire lookout in the Gila National Forest in New Mexico is enlightening and well-informed. The surprise in the book is the author's willingness--his courage, actually--to examine his own na?vet? about the natural world. His is a most welcome new voice."--Barry Lopez

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Matthew Waddell:

Reading a reserve can be one of a lot of pastime that everyone in the world adores. Do you like reading book thus. There are a lot of reasons why people enjoyed. First reading a reserve will give you a lot of new details. When you read a reserve you will get new information mainly because book is one of various ways to share the information or their idea. Second, studying a book will make you actually more imaginative. When you examining a book especially fictional book the author will bring that you imagine the story how the people do it anything. Third, it is possible to share your knowledge to other folks. When you read this Fire Season: Field Notes from a Wilderness Lookout, you are able to tells your family, friends and also soon about yours book. Your knowledge can inspire average, make them reading a publication.

Susan Roundy:

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Suzanne Jensen:

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Elaine Rochelle:

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