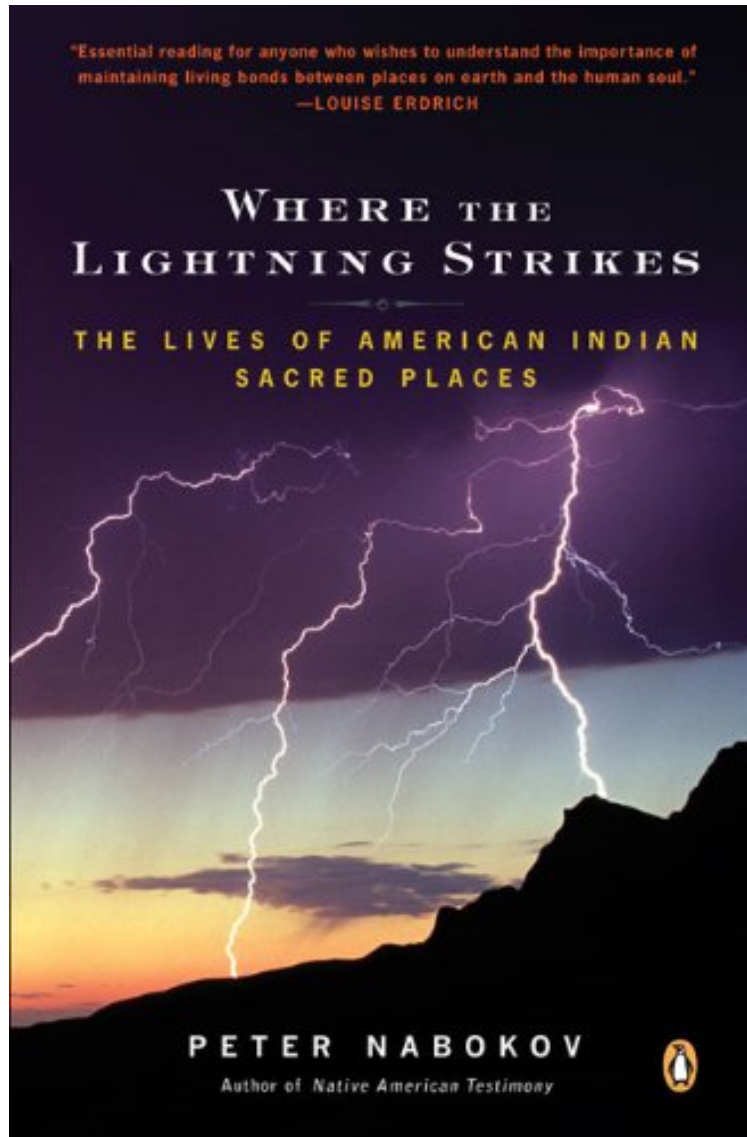


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Where the Lightning Strikes: The Lives of American Indian Sacred Places

Peter Nabokov

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Peter Nabokov : Where the Lightning Strikes: The Lives of American Indian Sacred Places before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Where the Lightning Strikes: The Lives of American Indian Sacred Places:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Extremely well done!By Holly SlaskiThis was extremely well researched and was a telling glimpse into the lives of Indians living today and those who are long gone. It was moving

and read like a story in some cases. A very invaluable find that is insightful and respectful all at the same time. Peter Nabokov's book is one of those rare gems that is so hard to put down. Thank you for creating it from your own experiences and views. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. You can tell the author really cares about his subject...By S. O'Toole While I enjoyed the bulk of this book, it was a bit dry for my tastes. Nabokov paints a vivid landscape and, at times, really puts you in the picture. I really appreciated that part of the book. Overall, I found it engaging but not nearly as engrossing as I'd hoped. Still, if you have an interest in sacred places and their meaning, this isn't a bad read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By richard burrill I am pleased with book received promptly and in acceptable condition. Thank you. Richard Burrill

From the author of *How the World Moves: A revelatory new look at the hallowed, diverse, and threatened landscapes of the American Indian* For thousands of years, Native Americans have told stories about the powers of revered landscapes and sought spiritual direction at mysterious places in their homelands. In this important book, respected scholar and anthropologist Peter Nabokov writes of a wide range of sacred places in Native America. From the high country of California to Tennessee's Tellico Valley, from the Black Hills of South Dakota to Rainbow Canyon in Arizona, each chapter delves into the relationship between Indian cultures and their environments and describes the myths and legends, practices, and rituals that sustained them.

From Publishers Weekly According to UCLA professor Nabokov (*Native American Testimony*), the places that American Indians call sacred may be as wondrous as "cliffs spilling with waterfalls" and as humble as "caves splattered with bat excrement." What makes them important is not postcard-perfect beauty but the beliefs a group has about "what lies within or beneath what the eye can see." This excellent volume presents the "biographies" of 16 such places, from Maine to California. Through them, Nabokov surveys a wide range of Native American spiritual practices and reveals how intrusions into Native Americans' land have also constituted assaults upon their religious beliefs. Indeed, many of the assaults continue to this day: after the disruptions caused by war, disease, missionary activity and forced relocation came those of hydroelectric dams, agribusiness, parking lots and extreme sports buffs. Nabokov's deeply informed text is enhanced by first-person accounts of his visits to the locations and by his spirited commentary on the writings of other ethnographers, naturalists, linguists and anthropologists. Sentimental clichés and monolithic views are dismantled along the way. Each of Nabokov's biographies can be savored separately; taken together, they demonstrate both that there is "more to some American places than [meets] the eye" and that Native Americans have known that for a very long time. (Jan.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Nabokov presents 16 "biographies of place," each of a habitat illustrating the bond between North American Indian cultures and their environment perpetuated by myths, legends, and rituals. He maps out some of the thousands of mounds in the Midwest thought to express cosmological beliefs and recounts multiple visits by an anthropologist in the 1930s to a Canadian Ojibwa enclave "caught in a time capsule" manifested by its all-consuming ties to the natural world. An account of the 1906 trek made by Indians from Taos Pueblo to Blue Lake opens a window onto the significance of that glacial pool, from which current residents believe their earliest ancestors emerged. Nabokov's case for the return of the Black Hills to the Lakota and Cheyenne is based on his explication of a book of 400 drawings by an Oglala Sioux who, 100 years ago, depicted hills, caves, and rock art still considered sacred today. The author's careful documentation of unbroken reverence for these sacred places powerfully illuminates Native American attachment to the earth itself. Deborah Donovan Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved. Inspired and highly informative . . . those wishing to understand the embattled Indian religion, and its profound relationship to the earth, will find a better guide than Nabokov. (San Francisco Chronicle)