



Orb Stones and Geoglyphs: A Writer's Journey

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A soulful mix of writing, geology, rock and roll, and ancient lost nations comes from the author of the award winning historical novel, Storykeeper. The thought-provoking account of a ten-year search for mystical orbs, mysterious earthworks, and forgotten history intends to inspire the storyteller in all of us to begin their own journey.

Orb Stones and Geoglyphs: A Writer's Journey Details

Date : Published April 12th 2017 by Daniel A. Smith

ISBN :

Author : Daniel A. Smith

Format : Kindle Edition 72 pages

Genre :

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From Reader Review Orb Stones and Geoglyphs: A Writer's Journey for online ebook

Allison says

I found this story of a writer's development to be quite inspiring. Even with the physical difficulties of getting the words out, and in a manner that is understandable to others, he was able to make this wonderful book. Aside from the writing development, the stories of the stones and geoglyphs were fascinating. It may have taken a very long time, but the result is definitely worth it. I now have to get a copy of "Storykeeper". I thank you for this account of one writer's journey.

Amy says

I wasn't sure what to expect but this turned out to be an informative read. As the writer describes his literal journey to inspire the writing of a novel, he also documents unusual stone orbs and geoglyphs found in the area. The photos of these are fantastic and something I had never heard about or seen before. Now I'm inspired to go off to do my own research.

I received this book as part of a good reads giveaway but the opinions expressed are solely my own.

Robin Morgan says

I found this book by Daniel A. Smith to be a delightful mix of genres which has made it somewhat difficult to categorize as to which genre it actually belongs to. The book is part geographical, part anthropological, part photographic; it deals with music and musicians, archeological curiosities and those who made them. But in the end, it's an autobiographical account of an individual's progress in becoming a published author despite his suffering from dyslexia; otherwise known as being a memoir.

From finding mysterious orbs in the wilds of Arkansas, to finding out who made them, is a journey into antiquity along with photographs that the author takes his readers on. A journey which goes from being a mere curiosity into a passion in finding out everything he can about the orb stones and geoglyphs he continuously found throughout Arkansas.

Being an author myself, I'd become interested in how the trek he's taken into being an author had differed from my own trek. For giving his readers a journey in discovering one's self, and one's hidden passions, I've given Mr. Smith 5 STARS

Lorna Gundaker says

I received this book in a Goodreads giveaway but the opinions are my own. The author, Daniel Smith, is dyslexic, and was not educated in writing. In fact, he prefers the scientific and mathematical. Yet, through years of struggle, he wrote this book. Being a fellow Arkansan, I too grew up around the mysterious rocks, or sand glyphs in the state. This is what first drew Smith's interest and writing career. This is a memoir as

much as anything, as well as an adventure story. It traces his development as a writer. It is all quite interesting. Pick it up for an unusual read.

Aimee says

Goodreads giveaway

Al says

More than once I've compared an author talking about how their book came to be as like a tour of the sausage factory. At least in a venue aimed at readers this is as likely to turn them off sausages as it is to entertain or inspire. (In a venue aimed at fellow authors, writers, or those specifically interested in the writing process, the reaction is obviously different.)

I don't feel this way about Orb Stones and Geoglyphs. When I tried to figure out why the conclusion I came to is that while the story told here is a true story of how the author's first novel came to be, the novel wasn't the point of the experience, but one of the results. The writing isn't the focus, instead the important parts are the archeological curiosities the author observed and the history he learned about due to digging deeper. More an adventure tale than a chronicle of schooling. Explaining much more than this will spoil the story, so I'll finish by saying that those who like a good mystery and are interested in the history of North America should enjoy this quick read.

**Originally written for "Books and Pals" book blog. May have received a free review copy. **

J Aislynn d'Merricksson says

***This book was reviewed for Reader's Favourite

Smith's short memoir Orb Stones and Geoglyphs: A Writer's Journey is an exploration of one man's drive to create, and the inspirations he found to do so. Smith admits a favouring of mathematics and hard science over writing, finding the latter confusing in its more chaotic nature. Writing and language do have order and rules, but there's far greater fluidity and change. It certainly doesn't help that he is dyslexic.

As a young man with a degree in physics, Smith began work as a soundman, weaving artistry with soundwaves to help create amazing concerts. He was one of the 'men behind the curtain'. His discussing of rock and roll music seamlessly segues into a discussion of a trip he took with his wife, and stumbling upon a small town where giant, near perfect round stones were everywhere. Clusters rested in fields, and graced entryways and parking areas, where people had moved them. He would go on to search for the mysterious orb stones all through Arkansas, eventually sparking a story fragment.

As Smith's travels and research carry him deeper into the past, he shares with us his thoughts regarding the lost past of the indigenous cultures, and insights from his research. I found the conquistador information fascinating.

I love how, for Smith, these orb stones became his guides, paving the way to find the key to the past, to meet

the hermit, at the sick girl's grave. Here, Smith echoed something that I, as a writer myself, fully believe. We are biblioanthropologists, blessed with the key, or keys, to different places. We share not places that exist only in our own heads, but out there, somewhere beyond the blurred borders of our here and now. For Smith, his key is to our past. He stepped through and found Tatianto and Manaha, who have stories to share. I know, too, the fierce feeling of needing to write in the moment. It's an all-consuming need, to get it all down on paper before the connection fades.

As I read the beginning of Smith's story coming together, I kept having niggling sensations of familiarity. Annoyance and curiosity finally got the better of me and I went and looked up Martin's other books on Goodreads. 'Lo and behold, I had read Storykeeper some years before! Good book!

Orb Stones and Geoglyphs: A Writer's Journey is a highly engaging little read. It is one man's journey towards learning to be a bridge and a keyholder. A chronicler. A biblioanthropologist. Highly recommended for all the baby biblioanthropologists out there, to help ease doubts and learn to trust the process.

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