



A Wild, Rank Place: A Season of Change

By David Gessner

University Press of New England. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 149 pages. Dimensions: 8.5in. x 5.0in. x 0.5in. Cape Cod, that sandy, wind-swept enchantress, has captivated many writers, among them Henry David Thoreau, whose descriptions of that wild, rank place have fired the imaginations of not one but many generations. Among Thoreaus literary progeny is David Gessner, but this book goes far beyond the naturalists focus on the transcendent beauty of the landscape. Rather, Gessner combines his deeply felt sense of place with observations of the Capes people and with insights about his family, himself, and his art. In a series of interconnected personal essays, he explores his response to his own recently cured cancer and to the lung cancer that is killing his father. Issues of life and death intertwine with images of a land that Gessner finds curiously healing: Here thoughts are swamped by the smells, sounds, and sights of place. The gentle hypnotic lapping of waves. A prehistoric cormorant on a slick black rock. The delicate lacework of sea grass roots breaking down through a ledge of sand. Gessners introspection during a year spent writing in the familys weathered cottage portrays another struggle, too. For a young writer...

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