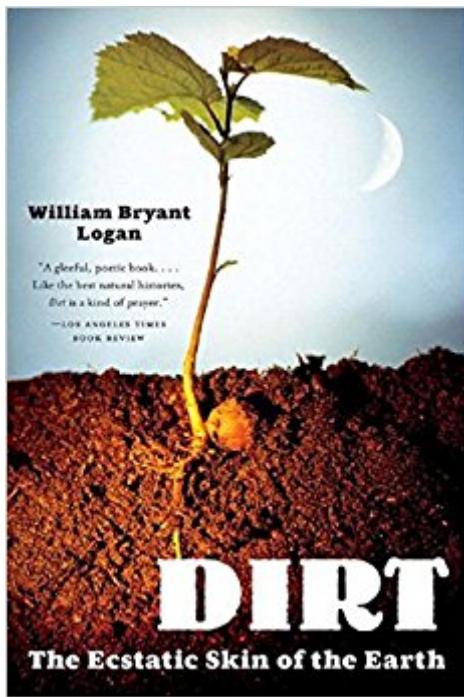


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Dirt: The Ecstatic Skin Of The Earth



Synopsis

â œA gleeful, poetic book. . . . Like the best natural histories, *Dirt* is a kind of prayer.â • â • Los Angeles Times Book Review â œYou are about to read a lot about dirt, which no one knows very much about.â • So begins the cult classic that brings mystery and magic to â œthat stuff that wonâ ™t come off your collar.â • John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Saint Phocas, Darwin, and Virgil parade through this thought-provoking work, taking their place next to the dung beetle, the compost heap, dowsing, historical farming, and the microscopic biota that till the soil. With fresh eyes and heartfelt reverence, William Bryant Logan variously observes, â œThere is glamour to the study of rockâ •; â œThe most mysterious place on Earth is right beneath our feetâ •; and â œDirt is the gift of each to all.â • Whether Logan is traversing the far reaches of the cosmos or plowing through our planetâ ™s crust, his delightful, elegant, and surprisingly soulful meditations greatly enrich our concept of â œdirt,â • that substance from which we all arise and to which we all must return.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dirt: The Ecstatic Skin of the Earth by William Bryant Logan is an enlightening and heartening read for anyone who studies the earth in science or daily living. Although a few of the factoids are not quite correct (watch that logarithmic scale!), this book is full of fascinating science of the soil, surrounded by heartfelt prose. Logan makes earth-centered philosophy accessible to anyone who has ever had a gut feeling that the land is good. The religion of the soil he presents is unobtrusive, yet all-pervading. Read it and feel good.

A galaxy of stars! *Dirt* is unique, unlike any other book I've read. (Bill Logan tends to write books like that -- his new one, *Oak: The Frame of Civilization*, is also unlike anything I've read, including *Dirt*.) The essay format works well. Logan's writing is cogent, witty, at times poignant; his imagination is fantastic. Rousing and satisfying my curiosity, he asks intriguing questions, and in seeking answers follows paths I would not have thought of but am glad to be led down by such a brilliant, quirky, earthy guide. Technicalities of soil science and geology are illuminated by personal experience and reflection on spirituality, childhood dreams (like digging to China), and encounters with masters of human achievement. This book may be ten years old but it's still exciting and provocative. I'm pleased to hear it is to be the subject of a documentary film; I hope that will lead to a reprint of this book, which is long overdue.

I have been reading '*Dirt*' for a few weeks now. I have already finished reading once and started all over again. The book is amazing. I loved it. Language, presentation, information are all valuable. **HOWEVER**, there are no references, no bibliography of the book. This is extremely disappointing for me. 'No reference' downgraded the value of the book, and the science in it as well. Sad!

Book Review "Dirt: The Ecstatic Skin of the Earth" William Bryant Logan Riverhead Books © 1995 The Berkley Publishing Group New York Available in Paperback William Bryant Logan writes about a substance that most take for granted and choose not to learn about. Soil is all around and is the life sustaining substance. It should be treated with care and respect. Readers at once will feel at ease with the writing style employed by Logan. Technical terminology is seemingly hidden within the prose. Disguised so that it does not intimidate the casual reader, yet it informs. The style makes this effort a must read for those who appreciate quality writing. One might not expect to find references to Jefferson, Emerson, Mary Magdalene, and Roger Williams along with a description of the efforts of the dung beetle and the earthworm. Yet, Logan is able to introduce us to "Compost Man" and George Perkins Marsh with equal ease and skill. Logan explains the origin of the word "dirt" [excrement from the Old Norse] and introduces us to the teeming vat of bacteria living within the soil. In the chapter titled The Soil of Graves, Logan describes in morbid detail the negative effects of embalming humans. This book would make a wonderful read for anyone interested in Geography, Earth Science or Environmental Science. I would encourage you to copy [with permission] portions for your class to read. All manner of resources on planet Earth are destined to become recycled: dirt to dirt. Money Back Guarantee: 1] Buy and read the book "Dirt: The Ecstatic Skin of the Earth". 2] After reading the book, if you are not pleased with your purchase, return to the

bookstore and ask for a full refund. 3] I don't guarantee that you will receive a refund, just that you have the right to ask.

I feel in love with this book. Bought it as a gift and had much trouble giving it up. What a beautiful testimony to the earthly process of life and death in which we all participate. Logan's cross-disciplinary commentary was heartfelt and informative. I have told everyone I know to read it. It is magnificent.

This book is one of my favorites, one of only 3 that I have reread in a lifetime of reading thousands of books. It is a book woven by a storyteller, one who draws you into what should be a short story about the very stuff we walk on and makes you hungry for more stories, more information, more pages. I loved this book from the very first story about life beginning in the bed of a deserted pick up truck to the very end when Logan talks about earth and life and civilizations before us. It is almost as though Logan wrote a biography of dirt - where, why, how and who - a tale of who's who and history, a drama about...dirt. I loved this book as an organic gardener. For 30 years I have played in the dirt in my backyard, enriching it, walking on it, harvesting from it without so much as a thought about it. Dirt, the foundation from which tendrils, blades of grass, giant oaks spring. Dirt in its nascent form; dirt shaped by man, dirt retooled to build. Dirt. In this exquisite book, Logan ranges from ancient Rome to the modern megalopolis of New York City, writing with joy about earthworms, composting and even the dung beetle. If you want to learn about the stuff we walk on, grow in and often take for granted - *Dirt: The Ecstatic Skin of the Earth* is the right book to pick up.

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