



Where Rivers Change Direction

by Mark Spragg

Mark Spragg's award-winning memoir of his boyhood on Wyoming's high Yellowstone Plateau unwinds as an exploration of how we might be useful in our lives. He writes of the natural world in language both lyrical, and yet elemental, and of it's animals -- horses, bear and elk -- and of the people who make their living under its open skies.

Riverhead Paperback, 2000
304 pages
ISBN 978-1-5732-2825-1

Mountains and Plains Book Award (nonfiction)
Library Journal Books of 1999
Publishing News (UK) Best Books of the Year
BookSense Top Ten
Community Reads/One Book selections:
Teton Valley, ID Fort Collins, CO
Casper, WY Port Townsend, WA

reviews:

"A piercing voice from the heartland, this resonant autobiography weds the venerable Western tradition of frontier exploration of self and nature with the masculine school of writing stretching from Hemingway to Mailer." *Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"Here is a book for women to read to learn the hearts of men. Here is a book for men to read to curse what they have lost. A fine example of blood-writing, every sentence alive."

Terry Tempest Williams author of *Refuge*

"Spragg paints a vivid portrait of life in the American Outback... an evocative snapshot of a severe, unfor-giving landscape... Spragg's finely wrought essays are easily equal to much of the beautiful fiction beginning to define the region."

San Francisco Chronicle

"Beautiful and poetic... a moving, lyrical, sensuous elegy to (Spragg's) Wyoming childhood and manhood."

Publishing News, UK

"His direct, spacious, tangible prose vibrates with the fragile crisis and joy of a man face to face with nature and himself."

Library Journal, starred review

"Spragg's spare but sensual essays will resonate not only with males and horse lovers, but also with any-one who treasures an examined life."

Utne Reader

from readers:

"Each beat of this beautiful story is like a meditation. The writing is sublime and transportive. When you finish it you'll want everyone you know to read it so that the wealth and rarity of the experience can be shared."

Amy on *Powell's Books*, 2011

"In my experience, there are few, if any, writers whose written life I would more want to occupy my own thoughts than Mark Spragg."

David on *Good Reads*, 2011

"I took my time reading this book, savoring the compressed poetry on every page. Like the Wyoming landscape itself, *Where Rivers Change Direction* is something I'll revisit often in the future, pausing to marvel at the soul-shattering handiwork every step of the way."

Grouch on *Epinions*, 2000

"Rarely has a book touched me with such immediacy and precision."

Jena on *Amazon*, 2002

"Spragg is an extremely gifted writer...the story is so well told, with emotion and insight to humanity that few writers can put to paper."

Anonymous on *Barnes and Noble*, 2004

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www.markspragg.com