



What the Stones Remember: A Life Rediscovered

By Patrick Lane

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What the Stones Remember: A Life Rediscovered By Patrick Lane

In this exquisitely written memoir, poet Patrick Lane describes his raw and tender emergence at age sixty from a lifetime of alcohol and drug addiction. He spent the first year of his sobriety close to home, tending his garden, where he cast his mind back over his life, searching for the memories he'd tried to drown in vodka. Lane has gardened for as long as he can remember, and his garden's life has become inseparable from his own. A new bloom on a plant, a skirmish among the birds, the way a tree bends in the wind, and the slow, measured change of seasons invariably bring to his mind an episode from his eventful past. *What the Stones Remember* is the emerging chronicle of Lane's attempt to face those memories, as well as his new self—to rediscover his life. In this powerful and beautifully written book, Lane offers readers an unflinching and unsentimental account of coming to one's senses in the presence of nature.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In January 2001, Canadian poet Lane emerged from two months in an addiction treatment center, sober after 45 years of steady, heavy drinking and drug use. He had to learn to live with a raw new self at age 62, and this book, part memoir, part diary, told month by month, chronicles his first year, retrieves his past and records the seasonal cycle of the garden he tends on Vancouver Island. Lane's parents were both alcoholics from mill and mining towns where heavy drinking and family brutality were normal. His impressionistic memories, painful and poetic, probe the secrets of his younger self. Lane's now-dead mother, beautiful, overworked with five children, unfaithful to his father during WWII, a gardener herself and quite mad for part of her life, haunts him literally—he sees her in the garden at hallucinatory moments—and at the end of this extraordinary year he brings himself to forgive her. The signal event of this period is Lane's marriage in August to his longtime companion, poet Lorna Crozier, but readers will find that almost incidental to Lane's remarkable nature writing: animals, birds and insects, flowers, moss and trees are as vivid as memory. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Review

"Possibly the best-written book published in 2004. This is a masterpiece."—Brian Bethune, *Maclean's* (Canada) "His lyric, seemingly effortless observations of living things drenched in light and water are mesmerizing. But like the hidden vodka bottles that surface in his garden like stones in a field, potent memories rupture the serene present."— *Quill & Quire* , starred review

About the Author

Considered to be one of the finest poets of his generation, Patrick Lane has authored more than twenty-five books of poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and children's poetry. He has received most of Canada's top literary awards and a number of grants and fellowships from the Canada Council for the Arts. His writing appears in all major Canadian anthologies of English literature. His gardening skills and have been featured in the *Recreating Eden* television series. Lane has been a writer-in-residence at the University of Toronto, Concordia University in Montreal, the University of Ottawa, and the University of Alberta. He presently teaches part-time at the University of Victoria. He lives in British Columbia, with his wife, the poet Lorna Crozier.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

John Lopez:

Nowadays reading books be than want or need but also be a life style. This reading habit give you lot of advantages. The benefits you got of course the knowledge the rest of the information inside the book that improve your knowledge and information. The data you get based on what kind of guide you read, if you want send more knowledge just go with knowledge books but if you want really feel happy read one using theme for entertaining including comic or novel. The actual *What the Stones Remember: A Life Rediscovered* is kind of reserve which is giving the reader unpredictable experience.

Breanne Gardner:

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Lorenzo Lowe:

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