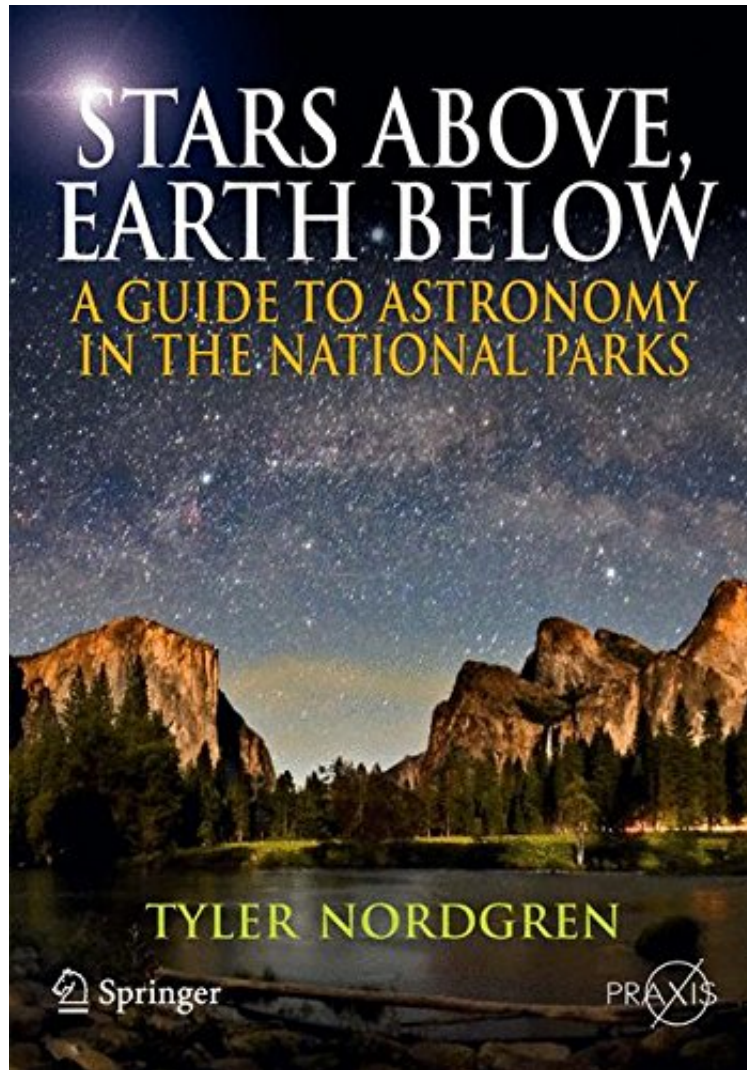


[Free read ebook] Stars Above, Earth Below: A Guide to Astronomy in the National Parks (Springer Praxis Books / Popular Astronomy)

Stars Above, Earth Below: A Guide to Astronomy in the National Parks (Springer Praxis Books / Popular Astronomy)

Tyler Nordgren

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#855173 in Books Praxis 2010-05-21Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.25 x 1.00 x 6.75l, 1.95 #File Name: 1441916482444 pages | File size: 17.Mb

Tyler Nordgren : Stars Above, Earth Below: A Guide to Astronomy in the National Parks (Springer Praxis Books / Popular Astronomy) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stars Above, Earth Below: A Guide to Astronomy in the National Parks (Springer Praxis Books / Popular Astronomy):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Amazing night skyBy rshinksI've recently gotten into astrophotography, and love the night sky away from city lights. This is a great book for seeing where to go, what to

expect, and I hope to travel to many of the places listed. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding Photos and Well-written and Entertaining Guide of NP Night Skies By Customer Being a National Parks enthusiast, biologist, astronomy buff, and teacher, I would have picked up this book anyway. Now that I've read a majority of the pages, a copy of this book is now a new and permanent edition to my home. What initially hooked me were Dr Nordgren's photos. Although the book doesn't do justice by some, most are stunning, and capture a unique perspective of the night sky. As I read whatever chapter I desired, I found myself caught up in remarkable aspects of astronomy, native history, legends and quotes, and the author's personal experience all interwoven to highlight the awe of nature, and our links to the Universe through the eyes of the human spirit. At one point, naively, I opened the book to Chapter Two: Black Hole Sun. Black holes are cool, I think, and I'm ready for a lesson like black holes, white dwarfs, neutron stars, etc. I read about Moon and Sun eclipses, a special one over Grand Teton, Moon migration, its alignment with the Sun and the Earth, personal experience of the author in the National Park with his hand-made sextant at scenic spots, a how a location is related to Kepler and his understanding of the orbits, the advance of worldly astro-scientific knowledge despite religious resistances, and once again back to the author's personal experience whereby his contemplation of the universe is disrupted by the end of a solar eclipse. Somewhere I read a comment by a person saying, "I'll read this book tonight". My effort to describe a chapter is but a meager attempt to describe the density and richness found in chapters, what experiences and basic insights are within reach, if not already, of the everyday person, and how interdisciplinary each chapter is. Not to mention the excellent photos, diagrams, and supplemental material that is within each chapter if not throughout the book. Not to be read overnight, I think, but chapters are to be savored. This reader appreciates the dialogue, the transitions and the care in a well-knit presentation of the universe represented in the National Park Night Skies. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Noli G Good read, more information if you are interested in night photography.

Stars Above, Earth Below uses photographs and sky charts to form a connection between what is seen on the ground and in the sky, and looks at the deeper scientific meaning behind these sights. Nordgren describes other objects in the Solar System with features similar to those on Earth and links the geological features seen in the national parks to the very latest NASA spacecraft discoveries on other planets and their moons. Additionally, historical context is discussed to show why we humans (who have lived in and around our national parks for tens of thousands of years) have always been astronomers. The first book to make direct connections between astronomy and the landscapes, processes and cultures one experiences in the US National Parks. Each chapter ties a specific astronomical phenomenon to a particular National Park or type of park and concludes with a See for yourself section that shows you how to see the planets, stars, nebulae, moons, etc. that are described within that chapter. A personal guide showing the reader the astronomical phenomena that you can see for yourself when visiting the U.S. National Parks.

From the reviews: A photo essay on a years-long journey to see the natural wonders of dark skies over America's most beautiful landscapes and visions of future exploration of the planets -- Stars Above, Earth Below is all of these. Nordgren's text is accompanied by a truly exorbitant number of photos and diagrams. The book will delight space fans, but I think that it will do a greater public service by exposing those people who already love places seen throughout the Space Age. (Emily Lakdawalla, The Planetary Society Blog, December, 2010) There are numerous field books on astronomy on the market, but this new book stands out. Astronomer Nordgren spent 14 months traveling across the US, visiting 12 national parks and contributing to their nighttime public outreach programs. The result is this beautiful diary of the author's experiences and account of the unique aspects of the night sky at each site. Most chapters are illustrated with beautiful color photos, many of them taken by Nordgren. Summing Up: Highly recommended. All levels/libraries. (T. D. Oswalt, Choice, Vol. 48 (3), November, 2010) Appeal to readers with a wider interest in wild landscapes. The book is an excellent example of the growing global trend of developing partnerships between astronomers and environmental managers. Includes a good number of eye-catching images and illustrations to draw the reader into its themes. As a general introduction to astronomy the style is individual and idiosyncratic. The approach weaves together, for example, personal anecdotes, philosophical observations, and practical seasonal star-charts. (Dan Hillier, The Observatory, Vol. 131 (1222), June, 2011) From the Back Cover In Stars Above, Earth Below, Tyler Nordgren examines a range of astronomical topics and makes the connection between them and the landscapes, processes, and cultures which can be seen and experienced within specific U.S. National Parks. For each park and topic the story unfolds in three steps: what does the reader see for him - or herself? What is the scientific cause or explanation of what is seen? And finally, what is the big picture about ourselves, our world, and our Universe? The author takes us the length and breadth of the U.S., from the coast of Maine to the Yellowstone volcano, from the depths of the Grand Canyon to the heights of the Rocky Mountains, exploring the natural links between the features of the parks and those of our Universe. About the Author Dr. Nordgren is an Associate Professor of Physics at the University of Redlands. As an observational astronomer he has written over two dozen peer-reviewed papers on pulsars, the interstellar medium, star formation in galaxies, the distribution of dark matter in galaxies, and the atmospheres and pulsation of red giant stars. In addition, he has professional interests in

archaeoastronomy, light pollution and science education. These interests were developed during positions held as an astronomer at the U.S. Naval Observatory and then Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff Arizona. Both institutions have worked diligently and successfully with local governments to establish light pollution ordinances. Dr. Nordgren has designed and built sundials, including a two-story dial at the University of Redlands, and is one of seven scientists and artists that turned the NASA Mars Exploration Rover camera calibration targets into working Martian sundials. These Marsdials have become the most photographed objects of the Spirit and Opportunity Rover mission. In addition, while at the U.S. Naval Observatory and later University of Redlands, he worked with NPS park managers at Wupatki National Monument and Chaco Culture National Historic Park to photograph alignments of ancestral Puebloan kivas with respect to the North Star. In 2005 Dr. Nordgren began working with Chad Moore, leader of the National Park Service Night Sky Team who has developed a method of quantifying the amount of light pollution in the skies above the national parks. With his support, Dr. Nordgren is working with the U.S. National Park Service to spend his sabbatical during the 2007-2008 academic school year in the national parks writing the remainder of the book.