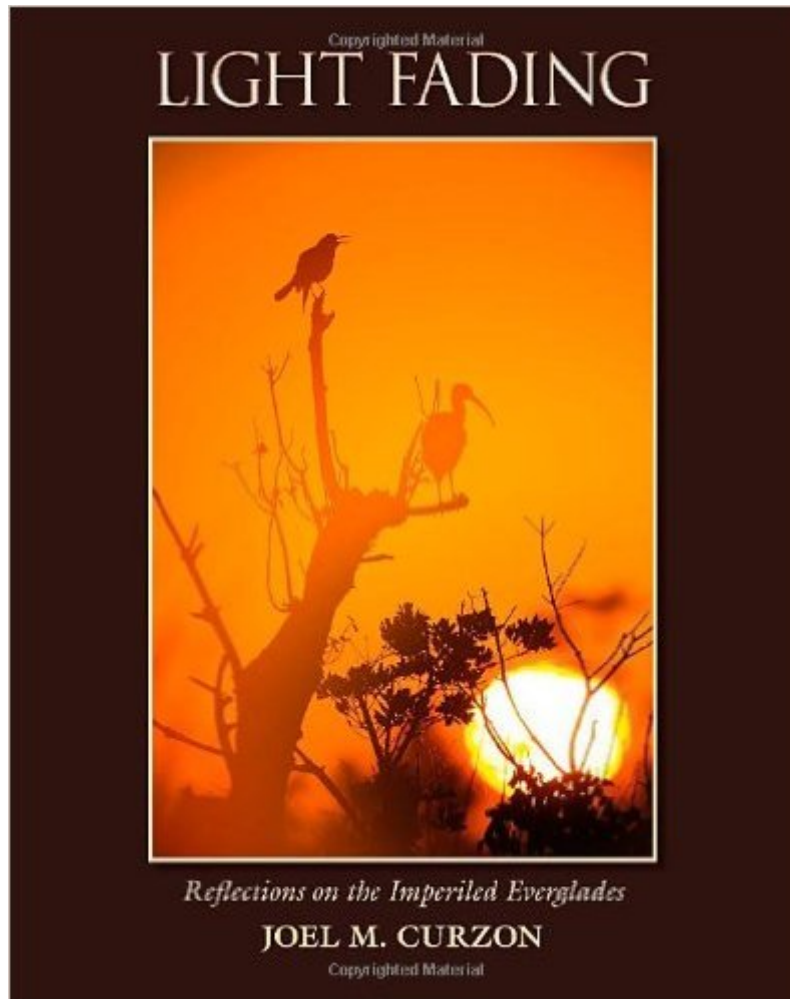


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Light Fading: Reflections On The Imperiled Everglades



Synopsis

"A radiant panorama of the Everglades thatâ™s both a feast for the eyes and a prod to the conscience," says Kirkus Reviews. *Light Fading: Reflections on the Imperiled Everglades* is the only book of its kind dedicated to America's most famous wetland: a hardcover, full-color volume of over 320 pages filled with brilliant photography -- including many two-page spreads and numerous full-page images, laid out at a generous size that heightens the book's visual impact. Along with his stunning and exquisite photographs, the author also provides a thoughtful essay that is at once lyrically descriptive, personally touching, and unapologetically scathing in its hard-headed assault on current policy and cultural attitudes affecting the Florida Everglades region. Using the problems besetting the Everglades as an apt example, Curzon frames those attitudes in a global context, and suggests a radical revaluation of our place in the natural world. The result is a book of tremendous visual beauty that simultaneously packs a potent emotional and intellectual punch, a work of significance for lovers of the Everglades, but also for the future of environmental thought in general.

Book Information

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Criticism & Essays

Customer Reviews

Recently back from Iceland, I was enormously pleased to discover that my friend and fellow nature photographer Joel M. Curzon's book, *Light Fading: Reflections on the Imperiled Everglades*, was finally published and available. Joel has been working in the Everglades for nearing a decade now, and has had time to not only absorb its beauty and power but also its history and its story. *Light Fading* represents a summation of that experience, melding an incredibly powerful body of nature

photography with a personal and deeply knowledgeable assessment of the environmental past, present and future of the Everglades. It is not an easy story to tell. The Everglades aren't something we're conditioned to think of as beautiful. Moreover, the story of why the current plans to protect the Everglades are failing is not conducive to sound bites. Yet, despite this obstacles, Light Fading succeeds at telling it, brilliantly. Joel's photography is amazing, the vast majority of Light Fading is devoted to his imagery, and rightly so. Hundreds of wildlife and landscape images communicate the diversity and beauty of the Everglades in a direct, powerful way. The large coffee-table book format of the book invites detailed viewing of his images, and helps build a connection to this incredible, but sometimes-intimidating environment. And yet Joel's writing is every bit the match for his photography. Backed by painstaking research, Joel lays out his argument that not nearly enough has been done to preserve this incredible resource, and lays out what must be done to protect it, in a detailed, direct way. It is the combination of these two threads, the writing and the photography, that makes Light Fading a landmark book in environmental photography and writing. Few books (I'm at a loss to think of any) use both words and images so powerfully, so personally, so persuasively. Highly recommended.

Coffee table books are designed to adorn coffee tables but are rarely read. This is an exception. Curzon's passion for nature, the environment, and his skill in photography jumps out at you from every page. His language and vivid imagery makes you feel he is walking beside you pointing out things you would miss. For Curzon, the Everglades is personal. He's been to parts of the park that we seldom go and has clearly waited for hours to bring us these pictures, capturing them at the right moment. Curzon has an agenda here and is not ashamed of promoting it. He wants us to be activists and join his cause, namely, protecting the Everglades (and presumably, the natural environment elsewhere). Even as we sit in the comfort of our living rooms enjoying the pictures, Curzon challenges us to do something about preservation. A must buy and read.

'Light fading' is evocative and moving. Its beautiful photographs bring the Everglades to life and give a palpable sense of what might be lost without active intervention. Its writing is accessible and provides a comprehensive guide to the history, ecology and current condition of the Everglades. I would recommend it to anyone with an interest in the environment and our national parks. I really hope that the book and the issues its highlights get all the attention they deserve.

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