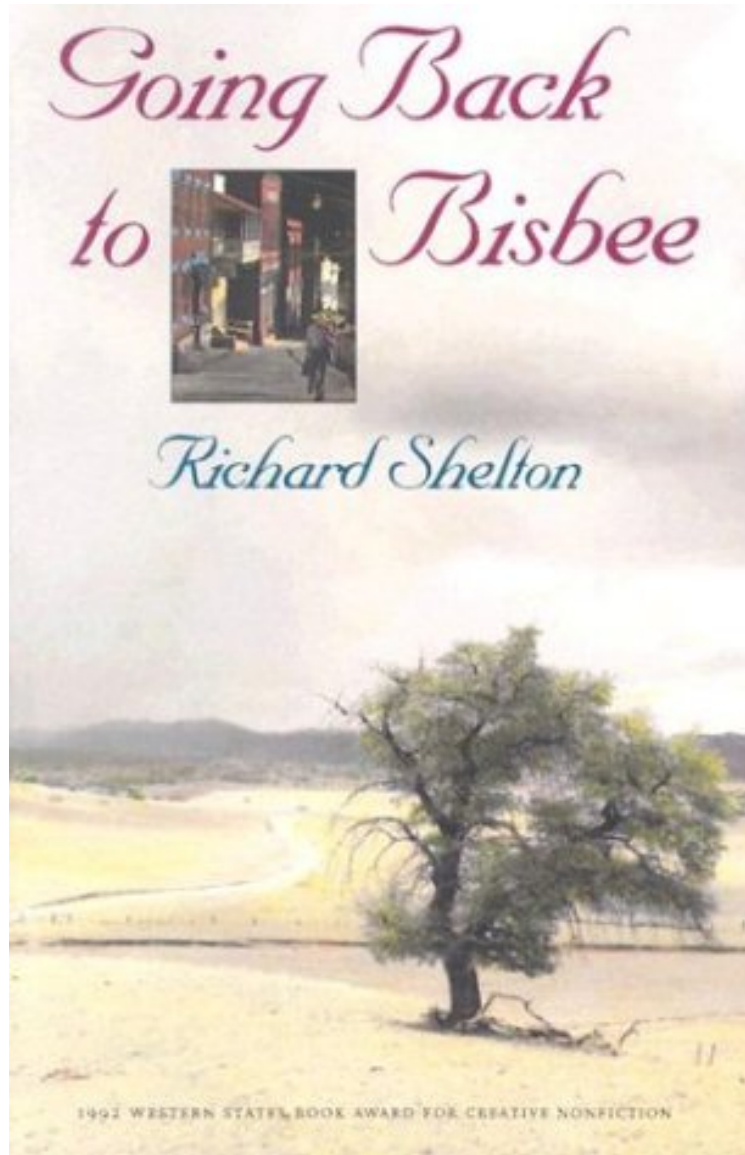


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Going Back to Bisbee

Richard Shelton

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Richard Shelton : Going Back to Bisbee before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Going Back to Bisbee:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A very rich road trip by a very good writer By M. J. Mardesen A great book to read about history, flora, fauna, jobs, mining, social constructs and the town of Bisbee. This is a really good writer who knows a lot of stuff about this area of the country. The actual writing about Bisbee is less than I would have liked to have, but I certainly learned a great deal about lots of things by reading this book. 15 of 16 people

found the following review helpful. Exquisite traveler's memoir of Bisbee, Tucson and ArizonaBy Los Angeles ReaderA DELIGHTFUL DIVERSION. WELL-WRITTEN AND WORTH IT TO BUY IT. A KIND OF VERBAL NATURALIST'S JOURNALING. This is an exceptionally well-written and engaging travel memoir describing in fluid, conversational, yet poetic language, the writer's travels in Arizona's Sonoran Desert and mountainous area. It uses the English language of the American style magnificently. It conveys the moment to moment experiencing of Mr. Sheldon's drives and travels. YOU feel as if you are in Blue Boy (his van) with him. YOU can almost smell the greasewood right after a monsoon rain as if you were there. I'm reading this book to my 91-year old Mother who lived in Bisbee and Tucson as a child. It is a special treasure for her as it allows her to enjoy and reminisce about the special memories of her childhood. Thank you Mr. Sheldon for this delightful book. I am eternally grateful to you.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great road trip!By Alis'nWonderlandDiscovered this book while planning a family reunion in Bisbee, once a home to our grandparents and their siblings. The author is a wonderful writer of refined sensibilities who takes an entire book to write about a journey between two points that are now 2 hours apart by the fastest route. He meandered, marveled, and slowly motored along, sharing his knowledge of geography, history, flora, fauna, politics, mining, geology, and hydrology in an engaging and never boring way. To a Michigander, used to gently rolling hills, lush greenery, and water water water everywhere, that a whole book could be written about 100+ miles of desert is amazing - but the area is full of human interest and wonderful stories, and there's more to desert flora than tumbleweed!

One of America's most distinguished poets shares his fascination with a distinctive corner of the country--Bisbee, Arizona--with a narrative that reflects the history of the area, the beauty of the landscape, and his own life. Simultaneous.

From Publishers WeeklyPoet Shelton has created a powerful annal of place--a paean to the Sonoran desert south of Tucson, a landscape as prickly as the cacti that grow in it and yet as refreshing as a rainy-season rainstorm. Shelton imbues landscapes, flora and fauna with resonance, imprinting themes of memory, history and human nature in the reader's mind. The opening description of a Sonoran monsoon is a masterful evocation of weather, vibrant and violent. Shelton's (*The Tattooed Desert*) tour of the desert includes descriptions of a six-foot snake that rescued him from the local squirrels who were infiltrating his house; his disastrous attempt to harvest a yucca as a native Christmas tree; an attack by raging bulls on the Mormon battalion in the U.S.-Mexican war; his abrupt discovery of an adobe ghost town; and the sociology of an old mining village. Shelton knows the lore and the life of Southern Arizona, and his diction, both precise and evocative, reflects his poetic skills. Indeed, the only fault here could easily have been repaired: the end of the book tends to repeat observations made earlier. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalThis book, winner of the 1992 Western States Book Award for Creative Nonfiction, offers the reader a glimpse into life and landscape in a mountainous mining region in extreme southeastern Arizona. Shelton, the author of several works of poetry (*The Bus to Veracruz* , LJ 12/15/78. o.p.; *The Tattooed Desert* , LJ 2/15/71) became enraptured with the area as an army draftee and stayed to teach junior high English in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Now living in Tucson, he recounts a recent nostalgic journey back to the area that incorporates natural history with a marvelous sense of place. This book should appeal to fans of Edward Abbey's *Desert Solitaire: A Season in the Wilderness* (LJ 1/1/68) and Charles Bowden's *Desierto: Memories of the Future* (LJ 6/15/91). Recommended, especially for southwestern and natural history collections.- Tim Markus, Evergreen State Coll. Lib., Olympia, Wash.Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Kirkus sPoet-professor Shelton (English/Univ. of Arizona) offers his first full-length prose work--and it's cause for celebration. Enlivening his picaresque narrative with vivacity, humor, and an eye for significant detail, he proves to be a splendid traveling companion. Shelton frames his narrative with an 80-mile drive from his Tucson home to the Arizona mining town of Bisbee, where he began his marriage, his family, his career, and his enduring love affair with the southwestern desert. Along the way, he recalls the violent history of this long-isolated border area and reminisces about his life as a army draftee during the 50's and colorful friends and acquaintances--like the pair of bashful students whom he taught and later found working as prostitutes in a small Mexican town, and the crusty fellow teacher whose foul vocabulary blistered her colleagues' eardrums. Shelton is equally adept at evoking the landscape along his route--thunderheads like ``great white cathedrals," stands of scarlet-blossomed ocotillo, moldering ghost towns, and cottonwood-shaded streams. He confesses his affection for tarantulas and his puzzlement about just who is responsible for the vaguely ludicrous names given to bird species. There's a hilarious description of hundreds of jackrabbits devouring a prison lawn, and an admiring tribute to 80-year-old Ida Power, who, jaunty beret on head and feet firmly on the ground, led a drive to turn Bisbee from a dying company town into a vigorous arts center. As the odometer creeps forward, it becomes clear that Shelton's trip to Bisbee has assumed metaphorical meaning--that he is trying to return to the past and his youth. He handles this second level lightly, never lapsing into pretentiousness or excessive symbolism. Shelton's literary touch is sure, and he seemingly achieves his effects--nostalgic, witty, inspirational--with little effort. A delightful American

companion piece to Peter Mayle's *A Year in Provence*. -- Copyright 1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.