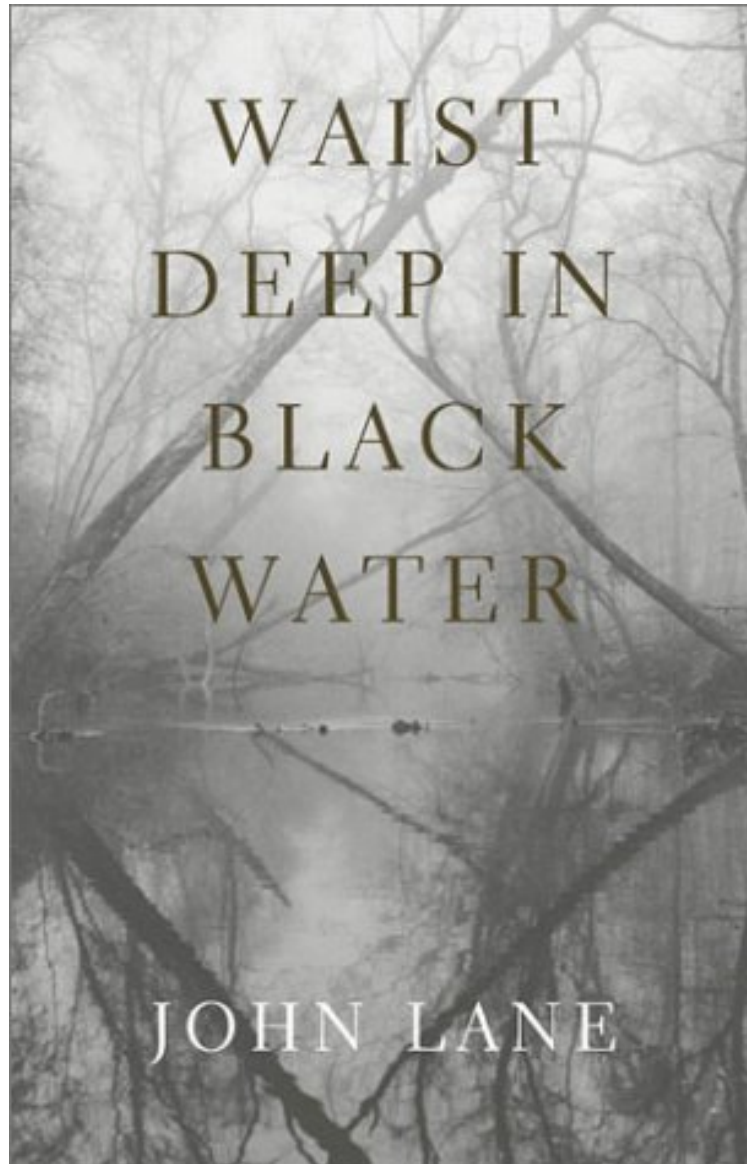


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## Waist Deep in Black Water

*John Lane*

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#3915865 in Books University of Georgia Press 2002-11-11Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.34 x .83 x 6.301, .85 #File Name: 0820324612200 pages | File size: 57.Mb

**John Lane : Waist Deep in Black Water** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Waist Deep in Black Water:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. nature, travelBy treeI really like the way this fellow has of saying things ... almost poetic. Just wish he went a wee bit more into depth on some subjects (e.g. the medicine wheel in Montana ... what did he REALLY see ? ... how did it REALLY affect him?).1 of 1 people found the following review

helpful. Exploring American Landscapes By CustomerSet in a "world where time moves in more than one direction and no landscape holds steady for long," these essays are steeped in both American literary naturalism and environmental conservationism. John Lane offers geodes of clarity and beauty that are spiritual, philosophical, and autobiographical. The book is divided into four themed sections: "Edges", "Field", "Home Territory", and "Family Wilderness". The essays are at times humorous and adventurous, but these essays also explore the human relationship to physical landscape, and many explore the landscape of the writer's consciousness. Lane becomes more than a recorder of landscape; he becomes a part of the landscape and, at times, the voice of the landscape itself. In the closing essay, "Confluence: Pacolet River," Lane joins the resilience of our landscapes with the resilience of the human spirit. The essay has a spirit of hope and a sense of unknown possibilities. As Lane takes refuge in his home landscape, he finds space to reflect: "my history is adrift on it as surely as today I have drifted on the surface of this living stream." John Lane witnesses the contradictions of our modern landscape and chooses to stir up conversations of national significance through these essays, while refraining from offering oversimplified solutions. Rather than advocating any type of political agenda, Lane sincerely models behaviors of inquiry, advocacy, and awareness in relation to our personal and physical landscapes. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Writing with Spirit By Jerome Walker, M.D. A loving and passionate collection of essays that leave the reader with intimate knowledge of a man who lives his life with intentionality and purpose. Read slowly and thoughtfully, *Waste Deep in Black Water* reveals the many rewards of living with deep respect for community, landscape, ecosystems, people, and all living things. With generosity of spirit, John Lane leads readers to see that how he goes about his work, travels, and everyday activities is what enriches and brings meaning to life.

John Lane has scaled a granite dome in the Suriname rain forest and waded past cottonmouths in the heart of a Florida cypress swamp. He has shadowed crocodiles in a Yucatán mangrove thicket and paddled the rapids of North Carolina's Tuckasegee River in search of a drowned kayaker. *Waste Deep in Black Water* offers a collection of Lane's own writings that range from wilderness exploration, to conservation issues, to explorations of family history in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Lane's trek to the Medicine Wheel National Historic Landmark in Wyoming becomes an occasion to draw connections between religion, sexuality, and mountain lore. A hike into Kentucky's Red River Gorge prompts a meditation on the words and spirit of Wendell Berry, who helped prevent the gorge from being dammed. Some of Lane's writings are set closer to home, where the South Carolina hills meet the Blue Ridge. In "Something Rare as a Dwarf-Flowered Heartleaf," Lane recounts his campaign to stop the development of a woodland area within Spartanburg's city limits. Family issues also surface, as in "Confluence: Pacolet River." Here Lane kayaks through country where his family has lived for generations as he reckons the distances between himself and his farming, millworking forebears. Something is always at stake wherever Lane takes us: a stand of old-growth trees, a primate population, a friendship, a soul. Lane bestows loving attention on the places and people he visits in this collection and, in the process, goes beyond the traditional concerns of nature and travel writing.

"Intriguing and well-wrought essays from a southern boy who is a collector of stories, each like a pretty rock gathered from some high place. Lane's pockets are full. His informants are wind and sage, storms and dark water, a love of land, the strange muteness of history. This is a book of searching, traveling through the uncharted territory where the human psyche meets wildness, to glean what lies in the depths of life. Lane's adventures carry us down many unknown and beautiful roads; like the best of journeys, they bring us back to ourselves." --Janisse Ray, author of *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood*