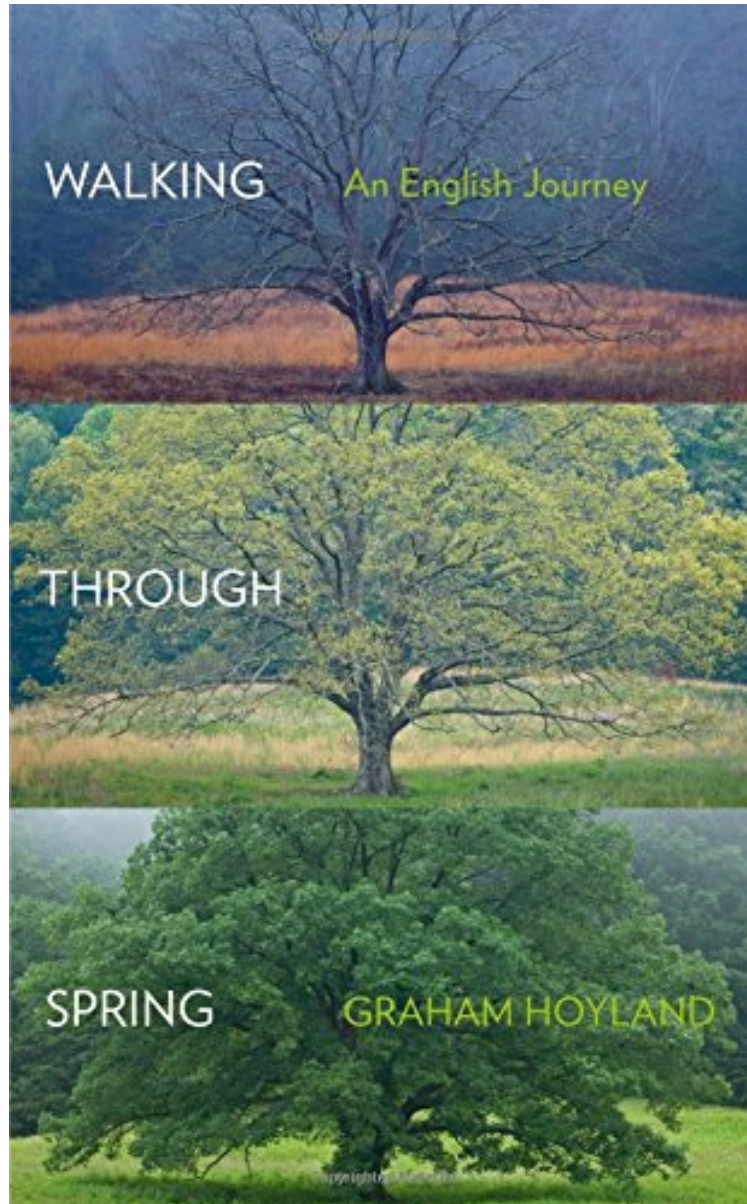


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Walking Through Spring

Graham Hoyland

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#3536490 in Books HARPER COLLINS PUBLISHERS 2016-04-21 2016-06-07Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x 5.50 x 1.251, .60 #File Name: 0008156123384 pagesHARPER COLLINS PUBLISHERS | File size: 55.Mb

Graham Hoyland : Walking Through Spring before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Walking Through Spring:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Patrick Leigh Fermor and Bill Bryson I am happy to add Graham

Hoyland to the list
By Susan Paskerian
As a reader of travel books, adventure books, the books of Norman Lewis, Patrick Leigh Fermor and Bill Bryson I am happy to add Graham Hoyland to the list. *Walking Through Spring* is a lovely book with a great thesis. There are great photographs, mostly by Gina Waggott. I loved the book and recommend it. I hope the oaks grow.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.
A green and pleasant land
By Gary16
This book is remarkably well informed and hats off to the love and care and learning that has gone into it. It is mainly a peaceful, appreciative stroll through the English countryside and it has me planning to walk the Cotswold Way 18 months hence. Every day as he passes through a landscape and sees some animals or listens to the dawn chorus of birds or passes by a village or a monument he paints a little historical picture over one or two pages, a charming or engaging piece of historical folklore, in tone, somewhat reminiscent of the antique roadshow on telly. He includes some snippets of environmentalism, some reflections on overpopulation, some information about land use and ownership and land degradation, a reflection on the plight of bees in a conversation with a beekeeper, a description of a cheese running festival and he inserts a variety of pleasant quotations from poets and other nature writers appertaining to his topic or region. Almost all of his little snippets of back story or contemporary factoids are interesting. His love of the countryside, of the trees and creatures is evident. His walk connects a labyrinth of ancient footpaths. It was inspired by something his father told him about Spring unfolding at the pace of a man's walk. His great background knowledge comes from a lifetime love of nature writing and he can name and tell a story about nearly everything he sees, all the flowers and trees and plants and places. He 'walked with people who know about walking, who observe nature and know it deeply'. He engages with locals, farmers, beekeepers, pub landlords. He writes very evenly, there is a quietness, an English restraint. When passion does creep in it is usually in the form of quotes from other writers. These provide some colour and intensity. There is sometimes a worried love for that in nature which he cherishes and which he feels is under threat. But he generally has a calm writing style, with a steady accretion of factoids and stories, not too many superlatives or too much poesy.

The most effective advertisement for the countryside I've ever encountered
Daily Mail
Walking Through Spring follows Graham Hoyland's journey as he traces a new national trail, walking north with Spring from the South Coast to the Borders. Hoyland connects a labyrinth of ancient footpaths, marking each mile by planting an acorn and drawing a path of oak trees that stretch through the English countryside. From dairy cows cantering and kicking their heels in lush meadows in the West Country, to galloping bands of lambs in the Peak District and secret green ways winding along canal tow-paths up the Derwent Valley, Hoyland draws inspiration from the vast literary landscape as he watches the season unfold across the country. Whether it is sailing a dinghy through the Lake District or taking in an otters point of view down the River Eden to the Scottish border, he finds himself engaging with some of England's best nature writers, discovering the essence of the country and meeting England's rural characters along the way.

This richly enjoyable book will entertain you on one page, enrage you on the next and make you get your walking boots on the third. I think it's the most effective advertisement for the countryside I've ever encountered.
Daily Mail
Praise for Graham Hoyland's *Last Hours on Everest*: A towering work full of twists and turns
Independent
Great book, great vision
Brian Blessed
About the Author
Graham Hoyland's *Last Hours on Everest* explored his discovery of George Mallory's fate in a similarly discursive way. A former BBC Radio 4 producer of history and exploration programmes, he was the 15th Briton to climb Everest and also writes regularly for the Independent.