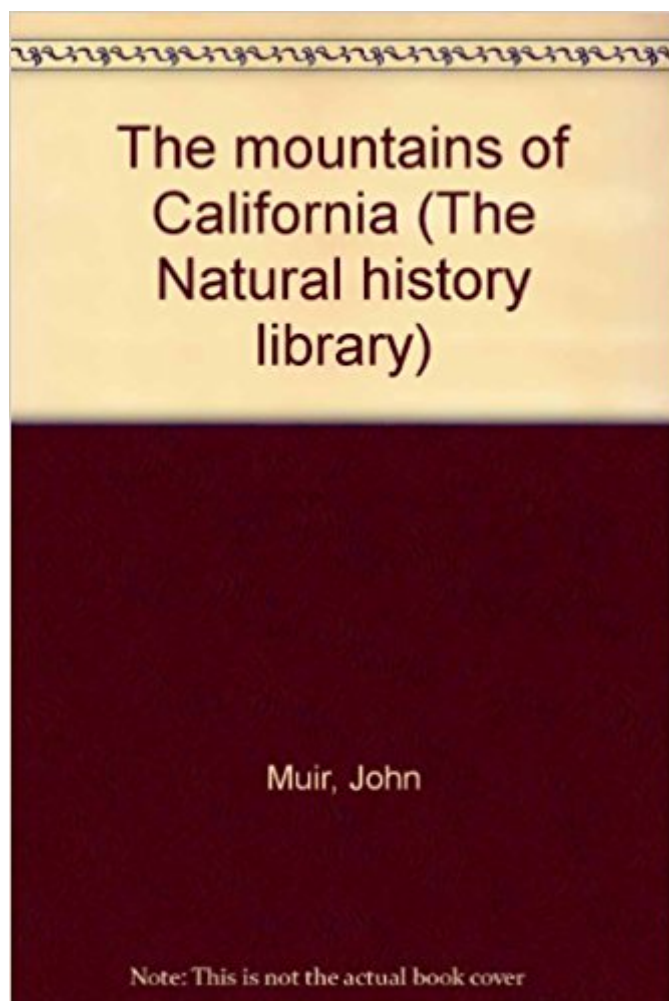


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# The Mountains Of California (The Natural History Library)



## Synopsis

Excerpt from *The Mountains of California* Making your way through the mazes of the Coast Range to the summit of any Of the inner peaks or passes opposite San Francisco, in the clear spring time, the grandest and most telling of all California landscapes is outspread before you. At your feet lies the great Central Valley glowing golden in the sunshine, extending north and south farther than the eye can reach, one smooth, Å Å-â owery, lake-like bed of fertile soil. Along its eastern margin rises the mighty Sierra, miles in height, reposing like a smooth, cumulous cloud in the sunny Sky, and so gloriously colored, and so luminous, it seems to be not clothed with light, but Wholly composed of it, like the wall of some celestial city. Along the top, and extending a good way down, you see a pale, pearl-gray belt of snow; and below it a belt of blue and dark purple, marking the extension Of the for ests; and along the base of the range a broad belt of rose-purple and yellow, where lie the miner's gold fields and the foot-hill gardens. All these colored belts blending smoothly make a wall of light inef fably fine, and as beautiful as a rainbow, yet firm as adamant. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at [www.forgottenbooks.com](http://www.forgottenbooks.com) This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully; any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Mr. Muir is a nature-lover of a fine type, one of the best the country has produced."--John Burroughs --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

When John Muir traveled to California in 1868, he found the pristine mountain ranges that would inspire his life's work. *The Mountains of California* is the culmination of the ten years Muir spent in the Sierra Nevadas, studying every crag, crook, and valley with great care and contemplation. Bill McKibben writes in his Introduction that Muir "invents, by sheer force of his love, an entirely new vocabulary and grammar of the wild . . . a language of ecstasy and exuberance." *The Mountains of California* is as vibrant and vital today as when it was written over a century ago. This Modern Library Paperback Classic includes the photographs and line drawings from the original 1898 edition. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

This is a really nice Kindle collection of John Muir writings. I do a fair amount of backpacking in the Sierras and its great to read these descriptions of some of the places I'm familiar with from someone like Muir.

An obvious lover of all nature, a keen observer and a dynamic writer, descriptive, detailed and as near to nature as you can get without being there in person. WOW! Muir blew me away! As a nature watcher and hiker, hiking for the love of seeing and being in nature, loving the details of nature, this author finally fulfilled my idea of description and detail and love of all the beauty, in a written form. I felt transported to this time and place, he painted pictures with his wonderful descriptions that brought me to hear the wind in the pines, feel the rain dripping off me in the wild rainstorms. Feel the exhilaration rounding a canon corner or popping over a peak and there beholding a view before me that takes away the breath and floods you with such an overwhelming amount of beauty that you scarce can take it in. When he describes the sequioa I felt compelled to sit down right there and observe the giants, drink that forest in, contemplate, go over the bark, the height, the forest floor, the moss, the ferns, the sky, the sounds, and smells, until you feel full and have taken it fully in. Which is exactly what I have done when I was among them myself. But Muir's writing took me right to that feeling with his beautiful writing alone. His description and obvious love of the water-ouzel (birds) felt like my own experience that I have never had in near the depth that he experienced it. This writing is a treasure and should be preserved for all times for all to read, all who cannot go to nature can almost literally bring nature to themselves; the writing and detail is that superb. Granted he does talk

at length about some things in nature that are not of a great as interest to me , for me it was the mountain sheep, I hold very little interest in these fellows of the mountains, Muir's writing is so concise and organized, all I had to do was skip over this part to the next part that was of interest to me. If you adore nature and being in it, or if you adore nature and cannot be in it for some reason, this book is for you! If you are encouraging an interest in nature in your children or studying how the glaciers went through an area and carved out the land, then what happens over time because of the changes the glaciers started, this book is an excellent source of how and what. Amazing, an Icon of Nature Writing for all Times.

John Muir is a superlative writer and this book is about a place (the California Sierra Nevada) near and dear to my heart, so I enjoyed this book. However, I would have really liked to have had a forward or preface that gave more context to the writings, e.g. some short biographical data or background about John Muir's life and the relative time frame during which he wrote these essays. There is nothing of this nature; page 1 starts with Muir's words. In addition, he goes into sometimes excruciating detail about his experiences in the sierras, down to minutia about rock formations and such. If this isn't of particular interest to certain readers, I imagine some sections could drag for them.

Muir's writing is delicious. A step back in time on many levels, as deep as the birthing of the mountains themselves. However the illustrations in this edition are of very poor quality, really a shame. I am sure the original drawings and photos were beautiful.

Great book, but disgraceful edition. Four spelling errors and typos on the first page alone. Get a different Kindle edition.

Wonderful, and reading it for the 2nd time.

Great book! Beautifully written!

After years of seeing wonderful quotes from books by John Muir, I finally bought The Mountains of California, and it simply bowled me over. Here is a man whose writing is informed and beautifully poetic. He wrote with a broad knowledge of geology, botany, meteorology, and a giant love of the natural world around him. If you are AT ALL interested in nature, and would like to read someone

who is not dry or boring, his writing will sweep you up.

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