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Ballantine Books - New York

On This Hilltop

Sue Hubbell

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On This Hilltop Sue Hubbell

"I am a beekeeper, but I am also a writer, and some years ago I sat down at a typewriter to experiment with words, to try to tease out of the amorphous, chaotic and wordless part of myself the reason why I was staying on this hilltop in the Ozarks."

Why indeed? For Sue Hubbell, a former college librarian who moved to the country, found she spent much of her time digging manure out of the barn or trying to fix the rear end of the truck -- that is, in addition to the hay making, corn planting, bee swarming, vegetable gardening, tick picking, log splitting, chick hatching, truck towing, and snake alerts that overwhelmed her early days in her new home.

These essays from down on her Missouri farm are alight with mischief, poking gentle fun at city snobs, Ozark men, and Hubbell's own experience as an apprentice Ozarker. They also chart the first forays Hubbell made into writing. As she says herself, "They were the beginning of a writing life. One of several I have lived."

"A beautifully blossoming writer . . . Hubbell watches language as sagaciously as she eyes nature." -- Washington Post Book World

On This Hilltop Details

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Author : Sue Hubbell

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Brooke says

Many of these stories will sound familiar to readers of A Country Year. It was interesting to read about the same basic concepts, but through her perspective as a married person.

Antonio Ceté says

Una señora contando historias graciosas de sus gallinas, sus vecinos y sí misma, más un tramo final en el que narra una guerra absurda entre Iowa y Misuri: a favor.

Davidlodge82 says

Si el libros hubiera obviado las dos ultimas historias que parecen ensayos en vez de relatos le hubiera puesto cuatro estrellas.

Laura says

A group of short stories about Sue Hubbell's early years of living in the Ozarks.

Suzie Quint says

My favorite of Sue Hubbel's books. She writes about living in the Ozarks and the people and the mountain culture. Her observations are laugh out loud funny, particularly when she relates how the mountain men always direct their comments to her husband because their culture doesn't allow them to speak directly to her. Is it possible that places like this still exist? Ms. Hubbel makes you believe they do.

Betty says

This is a collection of newspaper columns written between 1975 and 1978 plus two essays. The columns are wry observations of "retiring" to a farm in the Ozarks, vividly written and stunned me with the hard work and endurance required. Me, I would have gone back to being a librarian. The essay on the changing face of women in the Ozarks from the introduction of factory was quite insightful. The last essay, about a dispute between Missouri and Iowa over honey trees, bored me, so I skipped it to better savor the previous delights of this short volume.

Gwyn says

Sweet, short articles on her early years in the Ozarks. Nice contrast to her later work. You can definitely see a glimpse of the writer she'll become.
