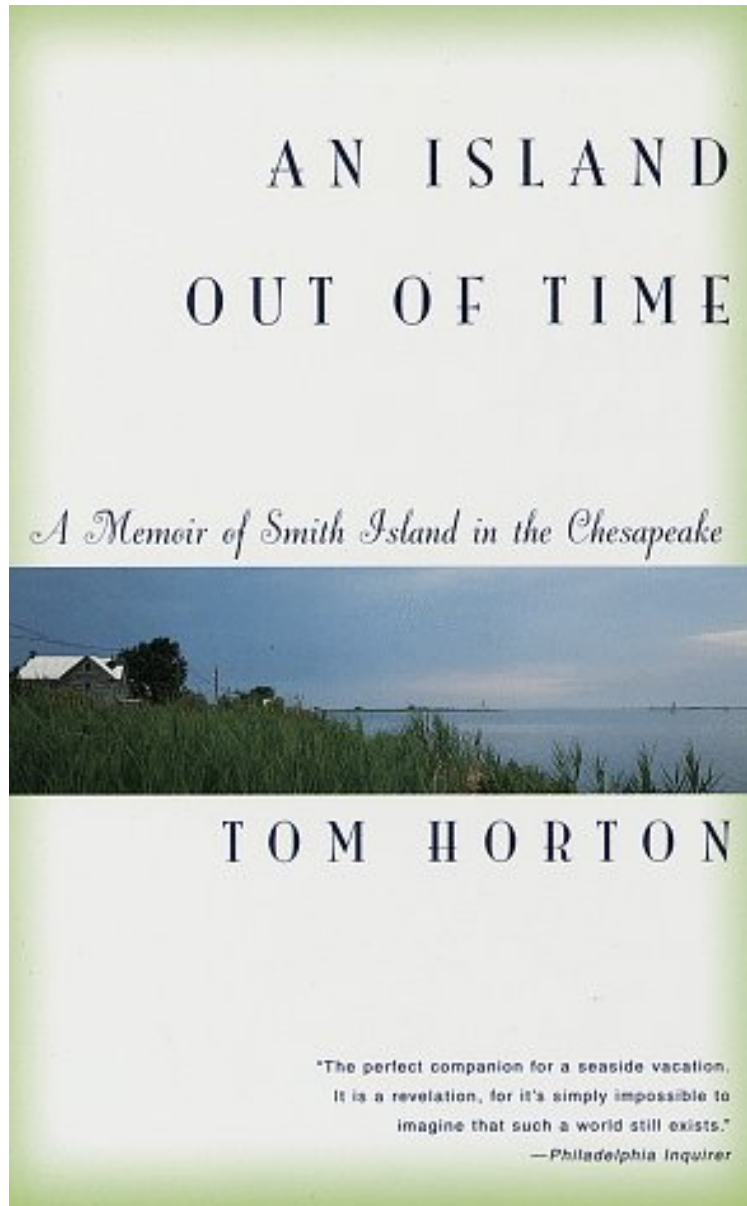


(Ebook free) An Island Out of Time: A Memoir of Smith Island in the Chesapeake

An Island Out of Time: A Memoir of Smith Island in the Chesapeake

Tom Horton

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Tom Horton : An Island Out of Time: A Memoir of Smith Island in the Chesapeake before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised An Island Out of Time: A Memoir of Smith Island in the Chesapeake:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Tom Horton begins his educationBy hudunit333A well written and interesting story spoiled only by the occasional, unnecessary and incorrect jabs at what Mr. Horton imagines is conservatism. If the author visited some of the smaller towns in Tennessee and many other places throughout the US, he would be surprised to find similar cultures. He does, for the most part, control himself and this doesn't spoil the book. If you love fishing, the shore or boats, I recommend it non-the less.I doubt the watermen are the main contributors to the decline of the fisheries. The increasing salinity due to the damming of the rivers feeding the upper bay is a known facilitator of the toxin that has killed off the oysters as well as added pollution due to population growth and the silt and fertilizer runoff from more industrialized farming. The watermen are a self-regulating industry. The more oysters and crabs, the more watermen and vice-versa. The islanders know this and are quoted several times in the book recognizing that "these things go in cycles".4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Timeless masterpieceBy HowardSmith Island in the Chesapeake may be an island out of time, but Tom Horton's book is a timeless masterpiece.I was looking more for a book about the nature and environment of Smith Island, instead I found a book more about its people and history (although inevitably it contained descriptions of the natural environment here, which is so interwoven with the lives of the islanders), but I was not disappointed. Mr. Horton's experience as a journalist really allowed him to shine in this book, as many chapters are transcribed from interviews with the islanders. He captured the islander's "rhythms and soft brogue" exceedingly well. I've read a few books about regional culture and history, but I have yet to find one as vivid and flavorful as this one (you can almost smell the steamed blue crabs between the pages!).As you may have known by now, a combination of factors -- sea level rise probably caused by global warming, subsidence of the bay floor and erosion -- have been slowly gnawing away at the low lying islands such as Smith Island in the Chesapeake Bay. A combination of social and economic forces have made the island population dwindle (I did a quick search, the population as of 2010 census was 276, a sharp decline from even two decades ago when the author wrote the book (it was then 400+, already half its peak population). It surely is an island out of time. But thanks to Mr. Horton, at least part of it will be indelibly preserved in Chesapeake literature.The author did not preach, and he is not an environmental extremist -- he shows an understanding and sympathy to some of the watermen's "illegal" fishing practices. But the questions he asked at the end of the book are thought-provoking -- is our planet not an island like Smith Island? We just draw from a bigger pool of resources. How should we live sustainably before this island of ours before it too will run out of time?I highly recommend this book to those who are interested in regional culture, history, as well as ecology.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Smith Island; an island lost in time.By Tom MorrisThis is a well written , poignant book concerning the daily and generational lives of individuals and families that have/had unique life experiences on Smith Island in the Chesapeake. At this point there are about 150 souls living on the island who continue crabbing and fishing and developing small restaurant enterprises that span generations with little change in focus or modus operandi.. As you read the book, you will concurrently step back in time and understand just how individuals live on Smith Island now and over time. There is a distinct possibility you will examine your own life style and ponder if you too could live life as a Smith Islander. Most could not or would not want the Smith Island way of life but there is definite segment of the populace that would savor it for any number of reasons. Make your own decision !

A small island, home to five hundred watermen and their families, is the subject of a study about a community that has remained true to its past while witnessing the decline of the natural world surrounding it. Reprint. 20,000 first printing."

.com Although the archipelago known as Smith Island sits in Chesapeake Bay, just off Maryland's eastern shore, it is in some ways a place lost in time and space. Lacking a police force, a high school, or a hospital, it still carries the flavor of another era. People earn a tough living from crabbing, which means 18-hour work days for six months of the year, and they still speak a heavily accented language that some scholars believe dates back to Elizabethan times. In 1987, Tom Horton, an environmental writer for the Baltimore Sun, moved with his family to this 300-year-old community. This thoughtful, well-written book is his record of the two years they spent there.From Publishers WeeklyLying 10 miles off Maryland's eastern shore, Smith Island has been a fishing community for more than 300 years. It is a tightly knit, highly religious, hardworking Protestant community with a population of fewer than 500. There are no police, no jail, no local council; here, the church fills the role of government services. Horton, a former environmental reporter for the Baltimore Sun, lived on the island for two years, interviewing inhabitants and taking part in local activities. He tells an eloquent story of people intimately connected to the island who live by catching crabs (100 million pounds of blue crabs annually), oysters, terrapin and rock bass. He notes that boats are to the islanders what the horse was to the cowboys of the Old West. Horton writes about "propping" (foraging), a cat roundup, hunting and poaching, the seasons on the island. Looking to the future, he gives Smith Island another century before it is drowned by the bay. Readers who enjoyed William Warner's Beautiful Swimmers will be eager to read this memoir. Author tour. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalIn 1987, Horton, a former environmental correspondent and now a columnist for the Baltimore Sun, moved his family to Smith Island in

Chesapeake Bay for a two-year stay. During that time, he was deeply affected by the local populace, whose traditional way of life is becoming difficult to maintain. The life Horton describes is hard yet often rewarding, and he wants readers to realize what will be lost with the destruction of the Smith Island culture. Never sinking into romanticism, Horton does not shrink from examining the island's darker side. He allows many of the islanders to speak for themselves, capturing their unique dialect in vignettes that combine to form a complex picture of a vanishing way of life. These vignettes are the strength and the weakness of the book: some are moving and powerful, while others contribute little. For regional collections or those who own William Warner's *Beautiful Swimmers* (LJ 2/1/76).?Randy Dykhuis, Michigan Lib. Consortium, LansingCopyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.