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# Flat Rock Journal: A Day in the Ozark Mountains

*Ken Carey*

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**Ken Carey : Flat Rock Journal: A Day in the Ozark Mountains** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Flat Rock Journal: A Day in the Ozark Mountains:

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Shares a day-long spiritual journey through the natural world of the Missouri Ozarks, where the author and his wife have lived for twenty years.

.com Ken Carey's book packs half a lifetime of good living--years of raising children and learning the ways of the Arkansas backwoods--into a mere 160 pages. There, on his 80-acre patch of ground, Carey studies the ways of the mountain people, campaigns against the forestry industry's clear-cutting practices, raises vegetables, and comes to grips with the realities of the place--such as venomous snakes outnumbering people by a wide margin up in the mountains. This fact prompts Carey to examine his leanings toward Buddhism: the kill-nothing philosophy is sublime.

But in the Ozarks anyone exhibiting so pacific a temperament during summer months would soon be compost. Carey seems to have found a real home in this neglected corner of America, and he's given us a terrific book. From Publishers Weekly Every spring Carey ( *The Return of the Bird Tribes* ) takes a ritual solitary walk--dawn to dusk--during which he meditates, reminisces and renews himself. A child of the '60s, he acted on dreams of going back to the land and found an 80-acre farm at the end of a dirt road in the Missouri Ozarks. He and his wife Sherry have made a rewarding life for their family in this heavily forested region with its limestone caves, waterfalls and more than 1000 species of plants. On the "day" reported here, Carey absorbs the splendors of nature. He climbs a huge oak to survey the countryside and gets caught in a violent thunderstorm. He recalls a fight to preserve a local forest, his family's learning to co-exist with copperheads and the competition between two dowsers to locate his well. This charming memoir reflects Carey's love of nature and his commitment to preserving the environment. \$25,000 ad/promo; author tour. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Carey takes us through a day on his remote farm in the Missouri Ozarks, and it is quite a journey. An environmentalist and educator, Carey, with his wife and large family, has lived in this frontierland for the past 20 years. His love for the land and its natural wonders permeates every word of the book. Carey takes the reader on a hike through the forest, always with a keen eye for the marvels of nature. Many sights jog the author's memory of his young adult years, when he lived elsewhere, and he relates amusing stories about his friends, acquaintances, and family. Carey tells of singing with the frogs and living among the Copperheads. The tales are not ony about animals but about human nature. The book is humorous, warm, insightful, and a delight to read. - Melinda Stivers Leach, Precision Editoral Svces., Wondervu, Col. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.