

COMMENTS FROM READERS

➡ *The Road to Beaver Park* is a travelogue full of wonder and insight. Jan's artistic perception unveils the beauty and order of the Western United States—evidence that fuels the spiritual pilgrimage that sneaks up on her along the way. I was moved by her honesty and the lovely imagery of her words. D. Weiss, California. (Singer, Sailor, CSU Adjunct Voice Instructor)

➡ It's like an enlightenment book. Reminds me of *Travels With Charlie* (John Steinbeck). *Beaver Park* is about traveling the country and growing as an artist as well as a growth in faith. I have spent many a morning in a duck blind waiting for the sun to rise and understand some of the same feelings. A. Hansen, California. (Community College Science Teacher, Outdoorsman)

➡ A beautiful book, written extremely well, it flows with music and poetry. The inserts are masterful and add to the wisdom found by following the journey and the author's thoughts/insights. The book glows of love, family, personality, dreams—a gift to the world of great value. And Don—I loved his journal—it says so much about him and his goodness—energy—intellect—and family love. Dr. R. Milton, Ecuador (M.D.)

➡ *The Road to Beaver Park* gave me an entirely new perspective on the wonders of the earth and of nature's diverse life. Seeing the world through the eyes of a painter expanded my appreciation for what is around me. Jan uses her observations as evidence of a Creative Force behind the harmonies and complexities of the natural world. *Beaver Park* is an easy-to-read story of one woman's journey to find her Spiritual home. M. Milton, California. (Editor, Author, Horsewoman)

➡ I'm a person that doesn't get dirty. I water my plants in white Capri's, white tennies, with never a splotch or a splash on me. But, as I read Jan's book, *The Road to Beaver Park*, I felt urges to hit the shoe store, buy myself a pair of lumberjack leather lace-up boots and a bomber jacket. I wanted to follow their trail. I wanted to see the river that taught Jan to paint in swirls, not horizontal strokes, I wanted to learn how to distinguish and blend the colors yet unseen until this special sunset, or in the walls of rocky cliffs nature chiseled into yet unknown patterns and shades. I'm not saying the Kirks are my new Lewis and Clark. I don't get dirty, remember. But if you love camping, you'll love this book. Follow their eleven-month autumn/spring sabbatical and it may lead you to parks and places you've never seen before. Just don't go down the road to the dam where the 'No Trailers Beyond This Point' sign is turned upside down. Jan saw it; Don, the driver, didn't. Guess what happened. M. Cambra, California (Author)

➡ Jan's eyewitness account unfolds naturally and so compellingly. I think seekers should read the book. I know artists and naturalists will love it. I think it would be an excellent home school book as there are so many ways to spin off and explore more learning. I'm sure folks traveling in the western states would love to read it as a travel companion. It is a perfect personal retreat read!

D. Weiss, California. (Singer, Master Teacher, Sailor)

➡ I got halfway through the Prologue, and I'm already crying...I can't put this book down. Jan's story narrative hints of Barbara Kingsolver and Rachel Carson, but with a clear voice all her own.

Great book! T. Douse, California. (Naturelover, Off-the-Grid environmentalist)

➡ Your book so inspired me for our family camping trip that I wanted to thank you. We had a nature scavenger hunt, what you see/collect. Wish I could attach a video done by my daughter-in-law, but file is too big, I'll ask her how to send it. B. Feeser, California. (ELCA Lutheran Pastor, fisherman, camper)

➡ Your descriptions are so vivid I almost feel like I'm along for the ride. Without the nasty weather. And it's so nice to hear Don's journal entries. I can hear him reading them. L. Cheatum, California. (RV traveler, camper)

➡ Going through the process of awakening the senses and learning your craft was particularly fascinating. It reminded me of a paper written by one of the Harvard profs my mentor used to talk about. One of them (can't remember which) wrote a paper about "the observant eye", calling it the most important lesson each field scientist needs to learn as part of our craft. Any ecologist must go out and observe everything before making conclusions. I've seen so many products of environmental education programs which have used information from books and data, never drawing real life conclusions or even verifications...It continually struck me that your conclusions from art and those from science are the same—patterns, confluence, the "web of life", etc. I've always considered life itself a great gift to each of us, but understanding the oneness of it all is an even greater gift. N. Milton, California. (Geobotanist, U.S. Geological Survey, retired).

➡ I finished your book and I love it. It was just like you were over my right shoulder talking to me, and Don was on my left. Amy of course was there too. I loved the way you wove your testimony into the narrative! Great job! I also enjoyed your discussion about artistic perception. It made me think about other specific perceptions. It brought to mind our discussion on your presentation of designs in nature with your poetry. *Beaver Park* is a great book and I am sharing it with others. B. Kalsbeek, California. (retired teacher, RV traveler).

➡ Just finished *Beaver Park*. I enjoyed it very much. Thanks so much for sharing your journey. It brought back many great memories. I have a few weeks off this summer. Hoping to get some time in nature and wilderness. Thanks and God bless. B. Underwood, Utah. (Pilot, Southwest Airlines, fisherman, outdoorsman).

➡ I'm thrilled to hear that you're receiving good feedback from the readers of your book. I know that we're all really proud of it. C. Graham, Oregon. (Marketing Director, Wipf & Stock Pub.)

➡ Everyone will glean info from this book. Even if they are not going to the same places they can use all of this info wherever they travel. The parts about flowing lines are so educational even though it is something we should already know. Great stuff! Loaded with

information—natural history, travelogue, painting lore, and family having fun. Enjoy! M.
Cambra, California. (Author)