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Praise for “The Great Western Divide”

Reading the book, I am put in mind of Lewis and Clark, who were sent forth to find one thing, did not in fact find the object of their quest, but found instead a lasting guide to the spirit of the land.

--Shelly Lowenkopf, professor, USC Master of Professional Writing Program

The author doesn't fall for the trap of holiness, of escape. Rather he is present – here and now, just as it is. He has the audacity, the courage really, to go beyond traditional truth.... Following his journey, I find my feet more fully present in my own journey.

--Jane English, designer and illustrator of *Tao Te Ching* (translated by Gia-fu-Feng)

Invoking the spirits of crow and fish, Spivey seeks guidance in healing the wounded soul.... Spivey's writing is bold, authentic, and richly present with the fullness of the story he must tell.

--Stephanie Kaza, professor, University of Vermont, author of *The Attentive Heart*

This book took me into an enlightened dream state that revealed the natural world, the human condition, and the ancient interaction between the two in ways that I hadn't experienced before. I hope to always stay somewhere in that enlightened state as I continue walking through our collective wilderness.

--Bonnie Wren, singer/songwriter; Boyertown, PA

The Great Western Divide speaks to my deep inner silence, which has been listening for an answer to the question that echoes through me, "Is anybody out there?" John Spivey brings us back to our origins, retracing our lineage and our connection to the earth that we've forgotten.

-- Mary Tingaud, acupuncturist, Santa Barbara, CA

John Spivey's book *The Great Western Divide* makes for captivating and refreshing reading. A potent educational tool, this book conveys the author's profound respect for the natural world and remembrance.

-- Marc Chetrit, lawyer, Montreal, Canada

John Spivey eloquently weaves his personal history into a book that speaks to something intimate, vital, and critical in each reader. As my husband and I took turns reading the book, the discussions that ensued -- both intra-personal and existential -- brought us to



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individual small personal epiphanies, and we grew in our spiritual and global consciousness. If this book can inspire such personal introspection and growth in global outlook for the two of us, imagine what it will do when it is read and discussed by larger groups of people, from book groups to classrooms.

-- Judy Willis, teacher/neurologist, Santa Barbara, CA

Spivey's book connected me to the places in my heart that still needed healing. The deep, still places that have silted in and are covered with ice water. I read *The Great Western Divide* as I walked the trails of the Sierras, Cascades, Canadian Rockies, and the Olympic rainforest. I wept for the planet; I wept for my fellow human beings. Until we teach again a reverence for the land, there is no hope for mankind. John's book offers hope and wisdom as it teaches us to respect our mother's ancient ways and all that she has to teach us about our connectedness.

--Susan Davidson, teacher, Santa Barbara, CA

The Great Western Divide is partly autobiographical, going back several generations to the author's roots in the San Joaquin Valley farmlands and the still-unspoiled lands around him. The story is subtly spiritual in his weaving of geography, Native American cultures, and our current views of development. The subject matter is compelling, his storytelling is gentle and engaging, and his use of language conveys depth of thought in a direct, economical writing style. It's one of those books you can savor just for its craftsmanship.

--Billy Goodnick, landscape designer/musician, Santa Barbara, CA

This is an intensely personal story that is compelling in its discussion about our vanishing wilderness and our true identity. I found the questions he poses in the book to be so thought provoking that I had to pause before continuing with the narrative. This is a bold book, rich in myth and steeped in the history of the Great Western Divide. Spivey has the courage to "tell it like it is."

--Anne Chen, office administrator; Santa Barbara, CA