

## Information, Answers & Reviews

# Our Souls at Night



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This moving book describes a love affair late in life. It's set in the fictional county of Holt, Colorado. One day Addie Moore visits her neighbor Louis. Louis almost falls off his chair when she asks him if he will come to her house and sleep with her that night. To share conversation, Addie adds, "not sex." Shortly after their night visits have begun (pajamas and toothbrush, paper bag will travel), Louis asks Addie, "Why me?" She answers with a question, do you think I'd just invite anyone. Because you're a good man, that's why I chose you.

Haruf, writes laconically, the kind of conversation you might expect from a man raised in a small agricultural town two hours east of Colorado Springs. Yet he succeeds masterfully at tackling the deep subjects: love, death, marriage, the friction between adult children and their parents. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on July 27, 2016

[Our Souls at Night](#)

[Friendship](#)

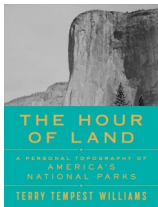
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# Happy Birthday, National Park Service, 100 Years!



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Terry Tempest Williams writes passionately about our natural world in the tradition of Thoreau, John Muir, Aldo Leopold, Annie Dillard, and Edward Abbey.

This book--timed to come out with the hundredth year anniversary of the National Park System--argues strongly about the necessity of keeping our park lands protected. It also reinforces why we need them in our modern world.

?Whenever I go to a national park, I meet the miraculous,? she writes in the opening section. She also says that our national parks ?are blood. They are more than scenery, they are portals and thresholds of wonder.? Having just returned from Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons, I heartily second that.

Although she has visited many parks, and some, over and over, she has chosen twelve to highlight here. And I love how she does it. Not only does she share personal anecdotes about each of the twelve, but she uses various formats to do so. For example, in the Big Bend section, she includes journal entries she wrote while there. Through riffs, all on a color theme, she shares what she saw and experienced there. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on July 22, 2016

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## The Great Race



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A while back I posted an entry about the 1965 movie *Those Magnificent Men and their Flying Machines*. In that post, I mentioned another film that came out the same year called *The Great Race*. While I am entranced by the old planes in *Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying machines*, *The Great Race* is really my favorite of the two. The film stars Tony Curtis as ?The Great Leslie,? a stereotype 1910 pure as gold hero in white and Jack Lemmon as Professor Fate, a stereotype 1910 pure villain in black and tells the story of their race around the world by automobile. Leslie and Professor Fate are not the only cars racing. The race starts with a much larger pack of automobiles; [Read more](#)

Posted by Keith C. on July 21, 2016

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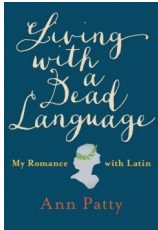
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# Living with a Dead Language



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They say that you really learn about a people only when you learn their language. Multiply that for a culture long gone, say, that of the Romans.

This book by a former editor describes her love for Latin-- how she went back to college to study it after thirty-five years in New York City publishing. I can't believe I even picked it up after all my complaints about being forced to take Latin in high school. But the fact that I continued studying the language after the mandatory first two years tells you something.

But this is a book about much more than Latin. It's about following one's passion. Along the way, Ann Patty reveals much about her life. She describes sharing a home with a man entirely opposite herself. Her partner, an arborist, lives for the outdoor life. He hikes and skis, even on the coldest days. She's definitely a city person even though she now lives in upstate New York, often rushing back to the city for cultural events. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on July 11, 2016

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# Arsenic and Old Lace



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Mortimer Brewster's aunts Abby and Martha are two of the kindest, most loving women you could ever hope to meet. They are always willing to help others and always seemed to have a kind word for everyone. They raised Mortimer and his brothers Jonathan and Teddy from a young age. Mortimer has developed into a well-rounded young man who works for the city's paper reviewing the theatre. Brother Teddy, while harmless, suffers from the delusion that he is President Theodore Roosevelt. Brother Jonathan, well, the less said about him the better. He was the type of child who enjoyed pulling the wings off of flies and the legs off of spiders. The fun begins when Mortimer is excitedly preparing to share the good news of his coming engagement to the girl next door rather unexpectedly finds a dead body in the window box seat of his Aunts' home. Later that same night his brother Jonathan returns home after a long

absence; who after numerous face changing surgeries looks a great deal like the actor Boris Karloff. With him comes an alcoholic plastic surgeon and another dead body. Meanwhile, Teddy seems to be digging body sized locks for the Panama Canal in the basement. [Read more](#)

Posted by Keith C. on July 9, 2016

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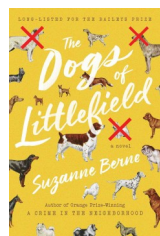
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## The Dogs of Littlefield



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Something is happening to the dogs of Littlefield, Mass. Is someone poisoning them or does the blame fall on something more supernatural? A cast of delightful, small-town characters suffers through this travesty as circumstance and personality pit one against each other.

It begins with the posting of warnings: pet-owners should not let their dogs roam free in the park. The signs start off politely, then denigrate into meaner advice: ?Leash your beast or else.? Then a white bull-mastiff is found poisoned in the park woods. Soon the aldermen schedule a meeting to discuss two diametrically-opposed proposals: ban all dogs from the park, or create a leash-free area for the dogs to play and have freedom.

Littlefield, long on the top ten list of best small communities to live in America, appears to be coming apart in myriad ways. Most of the teens and adults have therapists. The veneer of social niceness quickly disappears. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on June 21, 2016

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