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Review of Neely, Nick: Coast Range: A Collection from the Pacific Edge

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Neelyrev

Neely, Nick. *Coast Range : A Collection from the Pacific Edge*. Berkeley, Counterpoint, 2016.

Essays focusing on the coastal regions of California and Oregon introduce the reader to the plants and animals of the region, and their roles in the environment. The author, recipient of the 2015 John Burroughs Nature Essay Award, holds an MA in Literature and the Environment (University of Nevada), and conveys scientific facts in a lyrical style. A collector of natural objects since his California childhood, Neely presents chapters on chitons (marine molluscs), agate, salmon, hummingbirds, coyotes, gold mining (with dredges along the Rogue River), wild mushrooms, hummingbirds, salmon, bears, deer and newts. Living in a mountain cabin while supported by a writing fellowship, Neely had time to explore and reflect on his surroundings, and will inspire young adults as well as the general reader. VERDICT: Fans of the writing of Joseph Wood Krutch, Henry D. Thoreau and John Muir will enjoy these essays even if they are not familiar with the specific geographic area.

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