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High Tide in Tucson: Essays from Now or Never

By Barbara Kingsolver



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"There is no one quite like Barbara Kingsolver in contemporary literature," raves the *Washington Post Book World*, and it is right. She has been nominated three times for the ABBY award, and her critically acclaimed writings consistently enjoy spectacular commercial success as they entertain and touch her legions of loyal fans.

In *High Tide in Tucson*, she returnsto her familiar themes of family, community, the common good and the natural world. The title essay considers Buster, a hermit crab that accidentally stows away on Kingsolver's return trip from the Bahamas to her desert home, and turns out to have manic-depressive tendencies. Buster is running around for all he's worth -- one can only presume it's high tide in Tucson. Kingsolver brings a moral vision and refreshing sense of humor to subjects ranging from modern motherhood to the history of private property to the suspended citizenship of human beings in the Animal Kingdom.

Beautifully packaged, with original illustrations by well-known illustrator Paul Mirocha, these wise lessons on the urgent business of being alive make it a perfect gift for Kingsolver's many fans.



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High Tide in Tucson: Essays from Now or Never By Barbara Kingsolver Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #135728 in Books
- Brand: Harper Perennial
- Published on: 2003-11-25
- Released on: 2003-11-25
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.50" h x 5.75" w x 1.00" l, .60 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 288 pages



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Novelist Kingsolver (*Pigs in Heaven*) is not one to let her miscellany stagnate; she has revised or expanded many of the 25 essays included here, most of which have previously been published, and yes, there are thematic links in her view of family, writing, politics and places. The strongest link is Kingsolver's wise and spirited voice, animated by poetic and precise language. A Kentucky transplant to Arizona, Kingsolver recounts the triumph and pathos of her return home as a novelist; she also delights in recollecting her role in the notorious Rock Bottom Remainders, the band of writers famous for their ABA performances. "Raising children is a patient alchemy," she declares; indeed, her self-imposed exile during the Gulf War led her to Spain's Canary Islands and an atmosphere of much greater affection for kids. Reports from Benin and Hawaii, even her aquarium, show the author to be a curious and sensitive observer. Most telling perhaps are Kingsolver's reflections on her mission: because it aims to convey truths we know but can't feel, "[g]ood art is political, whether it means to be or not." Illustrations. Literary Guild alternate.

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From School Library Journal

YA?Displaying a diverse background and multiple interests, Kingsolver has written about subjects as varied as the biological clock of hermit crabs, tourist wanderings in Benin, and visiting an obsolete Titan missile site. The recurring themes here are the wonder and excitement of parenting; the respect for all creatures, religions, and points of view; and the importance of the natural world in our lives. She weaves these themes throughout her essays and presents readers with a vision of beliefs too often undervalued in our modern world. The author, a skilled observer of both people and nature, claims "to want to know and to write, about the places where disparate points of view rub together?the spaces between." These essays are her attempts to open the doors for her readers to see into those spaces.?Penny Stevens, Fairfax County Public Library, VA
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From Library Journal

Twenty-five essays from the author of *Pigs in Heaven* (LJ 6/15/93) grace this collection; some have been previously published, and all have been revised for this book. The title essay uses the metaphor of a hermit crab displaced from the Bahamas to Tucson to express an analogous situation in the author's life; this creature reappears in the final essay, "Reprise," representing the cyclic and rhythmic nature of life. In between, there are musings on life in the desert, feral pigs, libraries, fidelity, childrearing, and the like, all written with a keen sensitivity to Kingsolver's surroundings and often bringing an unusual perspective on seemingly mundane subjects. One can skip around or read the pieces consecutively. Essential for humanities collections in public and academic libraries.

Janice Braun, Mills Coll., Oakland, Cal.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Paul Simpson:

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation or go to the outside with them family or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read the book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent all day long to reading a reserve. The book High Tide in Tucson: Essays from Now or Never it is very good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book has high quality.

Nicholas Sheen:

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James Rutledge:

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