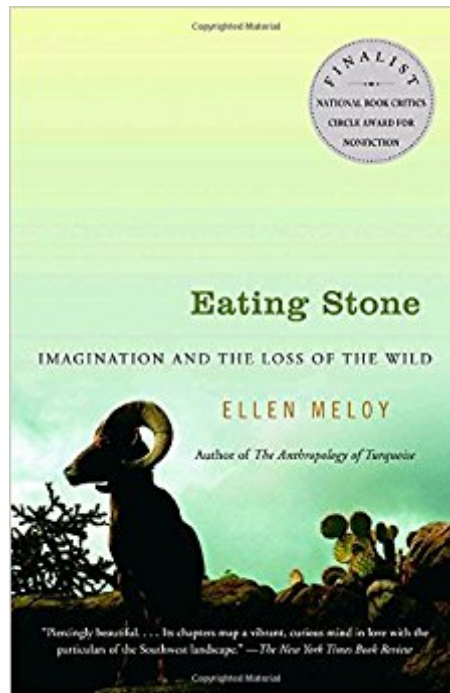




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# Eating Stone: Imagination And The Loss Of The Wild



## Synopsis

Long believed to be disappearing and possibly even extinct, the Southwestern bighorn sheep of Utah's canyonlands have made a surprising comeback. Naturalist Ellen Meloy tracks a band of these majestic creatures through backcountry hikes, downriver floats, and travels across the Southwest. Alone in the wilderness, Meloy chronicles her communion with the bighorns and laments the growing severance of man from nature, a severance that she feels has left us spiritually hungry. Wry, quirky and perceptive, *Eating Stone* is a brilliant and wholly original tribute to the natural world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It takes a bit of obsession to sit on sandstone ledges and watch desert bighorn sheep through a telescope for a year. This is just what Meloy (who died last November), shortlisted for the Pulitzer for her *The Anthropology of Turquoise*, did to slake her thirst to understand a group of sheep in Utah's canyonlands—a group she nicknamed the Blue Door Band. In this record of her study, Meloy, like the best naturalists, is a keen observer of the landscape and the habitat it provides. The band, just back from the brink of extinction, clings to the edges of the cliffs suspended in what Meloy calls "an island" of "deep landscape." She is concerned with the impact of the loss of the wild on humans' ability to exist, once wondering if losing species will "leave us brain damaged." However, a surprising levity punctuates the book, as when she writes, "Only sheep and lions fully understand sheep-lion dynamics." This humor balances her darker observations about the crushing footprint of humanity on the wild. In emotional, visceral prose Meloy makes no apologies for

anthropomorphizing the rams and the ewes, writing, "I wanted the sheep to adopt me, a kind of reverse Bo Peep arrangement." Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Meloy, adventurer and keen observer, has sharpened our ecological perceptions in her previous books, including *The Anthropology of Turquoise* (2002). Here in another masterful synthesis, she offers more uncommon insights into our relationship with the wild in a vivid study of desert bighorn sheep. These wondrously adapted animals live on the most arid and rugged of terrains. Hidden, mythologized, and coveted, once abundant, then nearly extinct, bighorns have staged a stupendous comeback in spite of dwindling habitats. After spending a year closely observing these ruminative and light-footed creatures in Utah, Mexico's Chihuahuan Desert, and the Sierra Nevada, and reading up on their biology and lore, Meloy animatedly describes supermodel-perfect rams, alert ewes, and lambs given to springing "straight up in the air like a piece of toast." Between witty, self-disclosing, and metaphor-spiked field notes, Meloy offers provocative reflections on restoration ecology and the "politics of wildlife" and muses over how the loss of animals and wilderness diminishes our imagination and sense of wonder. Sadly, this enlightening and invaluable book comes to us in the wake of Meloy's sudden death. Donna Seaman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I learned everything I wanted to about desert bighorn sheep. My favorite part was when she described the desert bighorn sheep in the Sierra mountains. There is also an exciting chapter when the desert bighorn sheep are transferred to another location.

One of 4 books written by the brilliant Naturalist Ellen Meloy!!! recommend all of them, She is a most unique and caring writer. This book reveals her passion for the natural world and especially The BigHorn Sheep!

If you like Anasazi petroglyphs and wild bighorn rams and ewes, this is your book.

Well researched. Descriptions of the animals and landscapes were incredible.

She is an excellent writer in all of her books I have read.

First Meloy book I picked up. It started off very good and got better and better. Wonderfully crafted writing. If you love the Southwest this is a must-read.

Wow. She writes so well. Her whole premise is exactly what I have been thinking. There is no way I could have put it into words this way. She is poetic!

I love the writer's style. It is just like taking a trip into the wild with her. Highly recommend this book to all nature lovers.

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