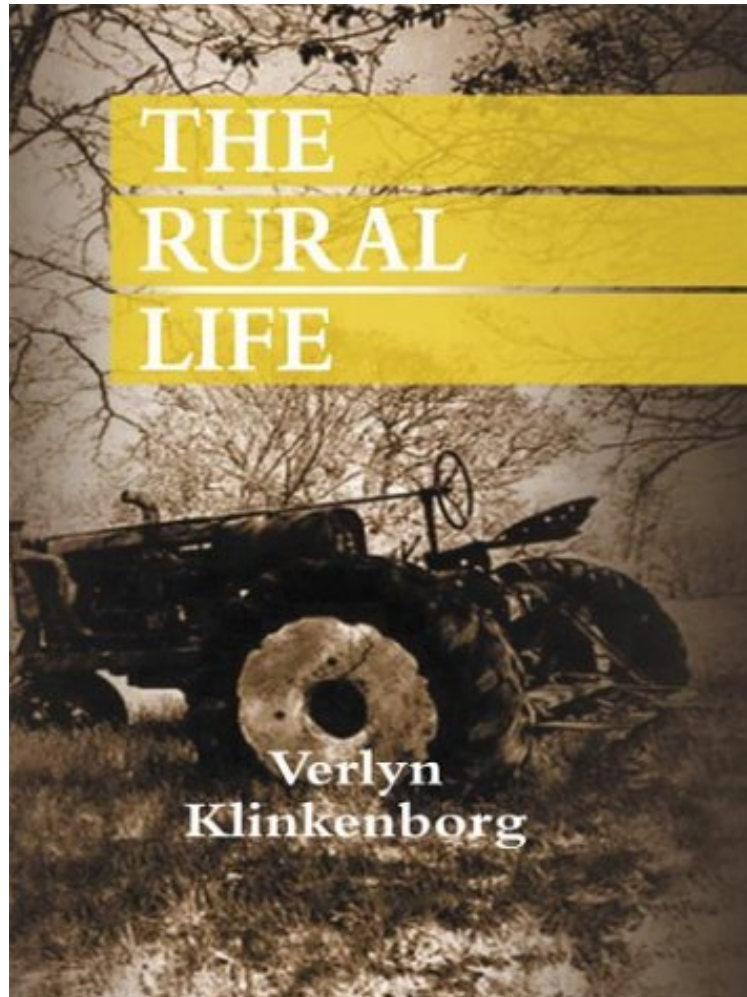


[FREE] The Rural Life

The Rural Life

Verlyn Klinkenborg

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Verlyn Klinkenborg : The Rural Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rural Life:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful proseBy MJ123I have been reading, and loving, Verlyn Klinkenborg's books since The Last Fine Time, and The Rural Life delivers the same luminous prose that so defines his writing. These beautifully crafted essays describe life on a farm, but they also exquisitely limn a mind present to the ebb and flow of nature and community. Like the "suppleness of light" Klinkenborg notes in late October, his gifts with language capture the glow of the ephemeral before it slips beneath the horizon of another day, another season; like the "intermittent, staccato whine" of a cricket, these essays anchor us at once to the personal and the universal, with phrasings as reassuring as a front porch and as pursued as true North. A beautiful book.2 of 2 people found the

following review helpful. Simply PerfectBy Raptor8Verlyn Klinkenborg is a perfect writer. I can see myself in his house and wandering around his property in the snow. I have never lived where it snowed as much as it does in upstate New York but I would like to try for a while. I would have to adopt his attitudes first. I know he is familiar with the west but I didn't care for those sections of the book as much as the up state New York sections. I just have never wanted to visit those sections of the country. He never said if he decided to raise pigs. I hope not unless they were pets. Mr. Klinkenborg is an exceptional writer and I hope he writes forever.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I love this writerBy Jan FrenchI love this writer, but actually prefer his later work, I think it's called "More Rural Life." He writes beautifully.

A New York Times Editor's Choice With a voice of singular lyricism and precision, Klinkenborg follows the momentum of the seasons in a language as simple and exacting as life itself. Available in Nonfiction 4 Series.

From Publishers WeeklyKlinkenborg's third book (after *Making Hay* and *The Last Fine Time*) is a selection of columns originally appearing on the New York Times editorial page under the heading "A Rural Life." They document in vivid detail the daily challenges of life in the country, and on a farm in particular. Though the columns are drawn from seven years of writing, the book is organized into a single year-12 chapters starting in "January" and ending in "December"-and flits from topic to topic, relying on a few short passages of news or descriptions of holidays to mark the passage of time. Likewise, the author never sticks to one place for long, but ranges across the continent of the U.S. and glimpses events in dozens of country towns from Wyoming and New Hampshire to Minnesota and New Mexico. Some episodes are emblematic of contemporary American culture: a high school football game, President Clinton's dedication of Walden Pond, the disquiet in the days following September 11. Others are more intimate passages discussing the author's family and the solace he finds in keeping bees, stacking hay or simply turning earth. Though this highly personal chronicle lacks any narrative arc other than the changing of the seasons and the author's emotional reaction to them, nothing in the prose is accidental, and the deliberate, finely hewn sentences convey, above all else, the seriousness with which Klinkenborg takes the task of watching the world around him. A heady meditation on our relationship to nature, echoing the works of the transcendentalists Thoreau and Emerson, the writing is much closer to poetry than essay. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library JournalKlinkenborg is a member of the editorial board of the New York Times and author of *Making Hay*. This collection of essays, most of which have previously been published in the NYT and elsewhere, describe his experiences of rural life, from his farm in upstate New York and in the American West. When a book is a compilation of essays, it can often suffer from a lack of continuity or context. While these selections are gathered according to month, they leap from geographic locations without regard to year; in fact, there is no indication of when they were written (except a couple references to 9/11). Klinkenborg explains: "If spring seems to be well advanced on one page and balky and weeks behind on the next...I'm probably describing two very different springs." Because he writes so well, one can endure the bumpy ride. Recommended for public and academic libraries.--Lee Arnold, Historical Soc. of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From BooklistMost of these essays have been published previously in an eponymous column on the New York Times editorial page. Their collection in one volume achieves a kind of consecration of time, as Klinkenborg chronicles the passing year through changes he observes on his upstate New York farm and during his frequent travels out west. Klinkenborg lingers over the chapters devoted to the summer months, his prose appropriately rich and yearning. No death or rebirth is too small to be marveled over and recorded, but paradoxically, Klinkenborg's careful observation and reflective, uncomplicated language generate their own suspense. Descriptions of the changing light in September, drives through falling snow, and the satisfaction of a rooster's crow at dawn are rendered in joyous and unsentimental prose without a hint of folksiness. Klinkenborg's many fans will cherish this chance to spend a year in his company. For readers new to his work this is an excellent introduction to a fine and inspiring writer. Meredith Parets Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved