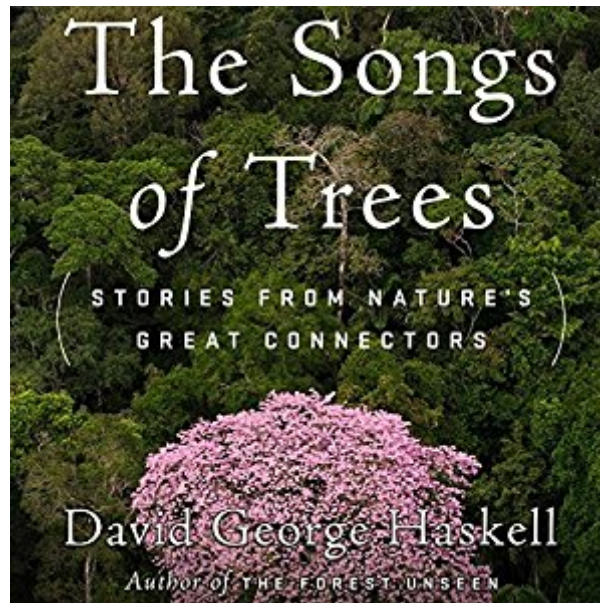




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The Songs Of Trees: Stories From Nature's Great Connectors



Synopsis

The author of the Pulitzer Prize finalist *The Forest Unseen* visits with nature's most magnificent networkers - trees. David Haskell's award-winning *The Forest Unseen* won acclaim for eloquent writing and deep engagement with the natural world. Now, Haskell brings his powers of observation to the biological networks that surround all species, including humans. Haskell repeatedly visits a dozen trees around the world, exploring the trees' connections with webs of fungi, bacterial communities, cooperative and destructive animals, and other plants. An ian ceibo tree reveals the rich ecological turmoil of the tropical forest, along with threats from expanding oil fields. Thousands of miles away, the roots of a balsam fir in Canada survive in poor soil only with the help of fungal partners. These links are nearly two billion years old: the fir's roots cling to rocks containing fossils of the first networked cells. By unearthing charcoal left by Ice Age humans and petrified redwoods in the Rocky Mountains, Haskell shows how the Earth's climate has emerged from exchanges among trees, soil communities, and the atmosphere. Now humans have transformed these networks, powering our societies with wood, tending some forests, but destroying others. Haskell also attends to trees in places where humans seem to have subdued "nature" - a pear tree on a Manhattan sidewalk, an olive tree in Jerusalem, a Japanese bonsai - demonstrating that wildness permeates every location. Every living being is not only sustained by biological connections, but is made from these relationships. Haskell shows that this networked view of life enriches our understanding of biology, human nature, and ethics. When we listen to trees, nature's great connectors, we learn how to inhabit the relationships that give life its source, substance, and beauty. Read by Cassandra Campbell, with the preface and two interludes read by the author.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 10 hours 29 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Penguin Audio

Audible.com Release Date: April 4, 2017

Language: English

ASIN: B06WW8S57V

Best Sellers Rank: #45 in Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Plants > Trees

#70 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Nature #74 in Books > Science & Math

Customer Reviews

This book is about trees, yes, but so much more. Haskell shows us how everything is connected to everything else, including humans and how important every little connection is. Each chapter is captivating on its own, but the whole book provides a compelling argument for taking care of not just trees, or water or air, but for all the things we rarely give a thought to. Including insects and microorganisms that most of us would rather not give a thought to. The health of each and every thing is an intimate element of our own health. Perhaps you already know that, but Haskell makes it all visceral.

As usual Haskell beautifully tries to draw us into the natural world and show us how deeply we are connected to it. His passion is as inspiring as his deep understanding.

David Haskell is an amazing writer and this is a beautiful book. I will be giving this book as a gift to all of my friends with an interest in trees.

Haskell is a poet/philosopher/scientist. The latest research into plant community dynamics and big picture global importance.

One of the most well-written, well-researched, enlightening books on nature, biology, and culture that I have ever read. This is a book I will return to often, and recommend to many.

A beautifully written and insightful book. A joy to read and it teaches us so much. Thank you, Mr. Haskell!

Wonderful book for the nature lover

In my busy life and career I only have time to read a few books every so often. So I must choose wisely. I am so glad I chose this one. It is everything I was hoping it might be and more. I love the feeling of traveling, especially when I haven't in a while. The breaking of routine and the freshness of new scenery that engages all the senses. At those times I feel more alive, alert and aware. The Song of Trees is like that. I get to go on a journey around the world to lands I have visited and

others that I have not. I get to look, listen and experience the details of nature that you will miss if not for quieting your mind and absorbing yourself into your surroundings. A relaxed alertness. There is a freshness in the pages, a message and a story. It is a good one. I find myself reading in varied rhythms. Some sections flow fast and carry you along. Others are so detailed and full of information and insight that I find myself slowing down to give time to fully absorb the communication. The book does not waste any time setting the tone for what is to follow. In the preface are found a very intriguing few sentences that made me re-read, pause and reflect. I have always wondered without resolution about the duality of nature that on one side is beautiful, nurturing and creative and on the other cruel, frightening and savage. In the preface is found a new way to perceive this.

“Ecological and evolutionary tensions between cooperation and conflict are negotiated and resolved.” Brilliant! What a way to see the workings of nature. A dance, a communion of life. The book is a work of art and full of insights. My hat is off to the author. An excellent read and information that is sorely needed to be shared in our time and age. I would recommend this to anyone who has an interest in hearing the heartbeat of Mother Earth and our own heartbeat. Faint at first, but the full depth of its strength can be felt and known.

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