



The Height of Our Mountains: Nature Writing from Virginias Blue Ridge Mountains and Shenandoah Valley

By Michael P. Branch

Johns Hopkins University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 456 pages. Dimensions: 8.8in. x 6.0in. x 1.2in. This is an anthology of nearly four centuries of nature writing about one of Americas premier regions the Blue Ridge Mountains and Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Beginning with Captain John Smiths eager gaze westward in search of gold and ending with contemporary essayist John Daniels transformative gaze inward in search of wilderness, The Height of our Mountains features the work of seventy of the nations finest writers on nature, from 1607 to 1997. Responding to Thomas Jeffersons claim in Notes on the State of Virginia that the height of our mountains has not yet been estimated with any degree of exactness, Branch and Philippon have gathered a diverse collection of written perspectives on the region in an effort to measure the remarkable richness of this landscape through a variety of literary forms and styles. The result is a wide-ranging survey that includes the colonial narratives of William Byrd and George Washington, as well as the natural histories of John Bartram and John James Audubon; the travel narratives of King Louis Philippe of France and the diaries and memoirs of Cornelia Peake McDonald, Walt Whitman, and...



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