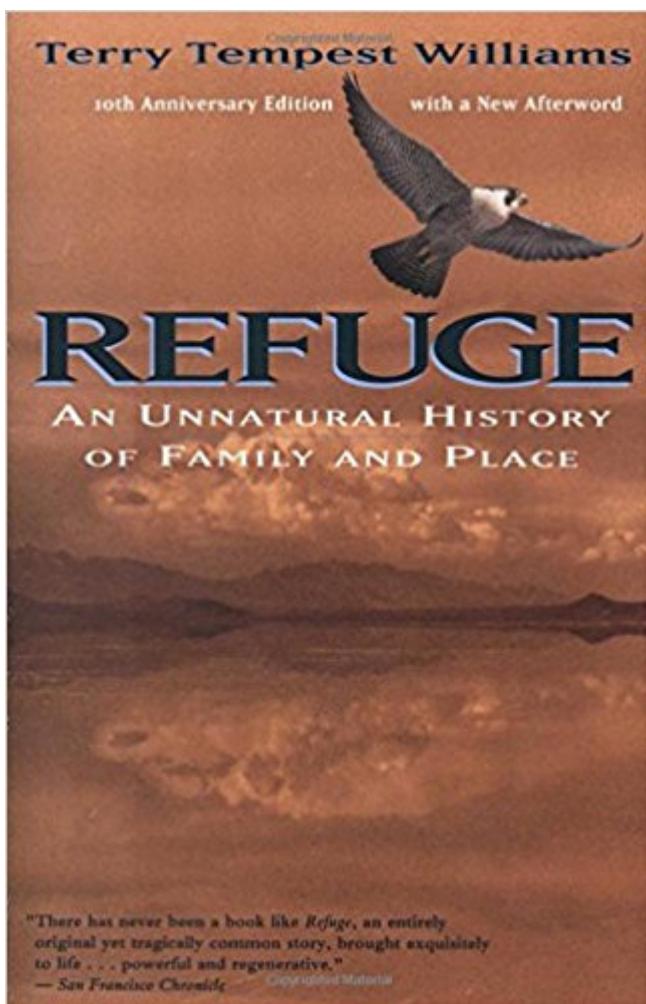


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# Refuge: An Unnatural History Of Family And Place



## **Synopsis**

In the spring of 1983 Terry Tempest Williams learned that her mother was dying of cancer. That same season, The Great Salt Lake began to rise to record heights, threatening the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge and the herons, owls, and snowy egrets that Williams, a poet and naturalist, had come to gauge her life by. One event was nature at its most random, the other a by-product of rogue technology: Terry's mother, and Terry herself, had been exposed to the fallout of atomic bomb tests in the 1950s. As it interweaves these narratives of dying and accommodation, *Refuge* transforms tragedy into a document of renewal and spiritual grace, resulting in a work that has become a classic.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

The only constants in nature are change and death. Terry Tempest Williams, a naturalist and writer from northern Utah, has seen her share of both. The pages of *Refuge* resound with the deaths of her mother and grandmother and other women from cancer, the result of the American government's ongoing nuclear-weapons tests in the nearby Nevada desert. You won't find the episode in the standard history textbooks; the Feds wouldn't admit to conducting the tests until women and men in Utah, Nevada, and northwestern Arizona took the matter to court in the mid-1980s, and by then thousands of Americans had fallen victim to official technology. Parallel to her account of this devastation, Williams describes changes in bird life at the sanctuaries dotting the shores of the Great Salt Lake as water levels rose during the unusually wet early 1980s and

threatened the nesting grounds of dozens of species. In this world of shattered eggs and drowned shorebirds, Williams reckons with the meaning of life, alternating despair and joy.

Utah naturalist Williams ponders the loss of her mother to cancer and the disastrous flooding of a bird refuge in a moving account of the interrelations between personal tragedy and natural history. Author tour. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I read this book for a class but connected to it strongly. I gave it as a gift to my mother in the hope it may be interesting to her in the aftermath of similar life situations to Williams.

I am from the very spots in Utah that this author describes so eloquently. I loved reading about my old haunts. It was lovely the way Ms Williams interwove the environment into the story of her family.

Really a heartwarming book. is probably the cheapest place to find this book. I got it new and kind of wished I would have got it used to save a little cash. Williams is a wonderful environmental writer. It is so interesting how she connects illness with the devastation affecting her beloved Great Salt Lake bird refuge. Being non-religious myself, I thought Williams really educated the reader on mormonism and her beliefs. It was eye-opening to have a writer who is not trying to crame their religion down our throats. I definitely cried multiple times throughout this book. It also sparked an interest in birds for me.

This book had been recommended to me since I too have been searching for reasons and answers. I love the mix of birds, biology, and breast cancer. It clarified several issues for me and brought to my attention how we have mindlessly come to this point in our society by making choices and decisions without thought or understanding of consequences.

Having watched the NATIONAL PARKS series by Ken Burns, I really wanted to read at least one of this writer's books. I am not disappointed. The book arrived on time and in great condition as well.

I think that anyone dealing with the elderly or anyone with dire illness needs to read this book. The author provides good insight in how to deal with death and dying. Her mother's story is an effective way to comprehend what we need in medicine today.

Such a wonderful writer. If this book does not make you see the world, femininity, life, nature, goddess differently, I don't know what to say because this book changed and elevated my mind heart and soul.

I enjoyed this book very much! It was historical in writing and personal as well in the life of a family living in Utah that had been exposed to radiation from military tests. It is also a mystery while the main character finds what is was and why all this cancer was plaguing the area as it had all been kept a secret. Extremely good book that I could hardly put down.

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