



# The Curious Nature Guide: Explore the Natural Wonders All Around You

*Clare Walker Leslie*

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## **The Curious Nature Guide: Explore the Natural Wonders All Around You** Clare Walker Leslie

With dozens of simple prompts and exercises, best-selling author, naturalist, and artist Clare Walker Leslie offers adults of all ages an invitation to step outside for just a few minutes a day, reignite the sense of wonder and curiosity about the natural world, and discover the peace and grounding that can be found by connecting to nature as part of daily life. Using photography as well as the author's own illustrations, *Explore Your Nature* invites readers to start at home, using all of their senses to notice the colors, sounds, smells, and textures of the trees, plants, animals, birds, insects, clouds, and other features that can be observed right outside their doorstep, no matter where they live. Prompts range from suggestions to note one daily exceptional nature image to learning to identify cloud types and the weather they bring, or creating a record of nature sightings on daily walks with the dog.

## **The Curious Nature Guide: Explore the Natural Wonders All Around You Details**

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Author : Clare Walker Leslie

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## **From Reader Review The Curious Nature Guide: Explore the Natural Wonders All Around You for online ebook**

### **Mairead says**

Had some good ideas, and loved the art--I think I was looking for something with less fun/interesting facts, and more inspiration/howtos, personally. Did feel good to recognize that a lot of the activities are things I've slowly started to do more and more over the past several years. Also, I loved the page re: keeping observations and small wonders, so I think her other book may be more what I'm looking for. Still glad I grabbed this when I happened to pass it in the library!

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### **Jennifer says**

As a fan of Clare Walker Leslie's previous books, I was thrilled to get an advance copy of her new book, "The Curious Nature Guide." This beautiful book does not disappoint.

While I had an electronic copy, I think this is a book that likely shines in printed format. The guide makes heavy use of imagery and is filled both with gorgeous photography and the author's own illustrations. Unlike a traditional field guide, this book provides suggestions and an invitation to readers to connect with nature where they are – whether they live in a gorgeous pastoral setting, or a bustling city. Ms. Walker Leslie provides several practical, experiential exercises for readers to experience nature right where they are, in the moment, using all of their senses not just their dominant one. With helpful suggestions she encourages readers to get in touch with their creative side, schedule an appointment with nature, and promises that "once you begin noticing, you will see more and more."

This book will delight avowed nature lovers as well as those whose idea of "the great outdoors" is a walk on a paved path in a city park. This book would also make a lovely gift. 4 solid stars.

Thank you to NetGalley and Storey Publishing for a galley of this book in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Monica says**

This is a cute book full of ideas on how to creatively engage with and pay attention to nature, even if it's just looking outside your own kitchen window. I enjoyed the illustrations in this book a lot, and loved being reminded that we're all able to be creative and curious with the natural world on a daily basis.

This book gives a delightful taste of a diverse range of biomes and ecosystems through quotes, artwork, and thoughtful passages. It also has a great deal of scientific facts sprinkled in, usually paired with illustrations. It's a charming, colorful, approachable book that serves as a reminder to be aware of your surroundings.

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### **Dorine says**

**Recommended Read! To see the photos from my nature journal, see the review on my site. Text only below.**

THE CURIOUS NATURE GUIDE inspires adults to focus on their senses, encouraging creativity. It's exactly what I needed to energize my love of nature to the next level. Even though this book is aimed at adults, many of the suggestions could be shared with children and would make an appreciated family gift.

I requested this book for review because I love any book that makes me stop and appreciate the world around me. I decided to journal my way through part of it with camera in hand and enjoyed the results. What I didn't expect was that this book jogged so many pleasant memories of my childhood enjoying nature with my dad, something that I still like to do today as an adult.

I've journaled most of my life, but this book made me think about small wonders and to be more persistent in my daily discoveries in nature. I'm especially excited about getting a sketchbook and some colored pencils to take on my hikes, something I never thought to do as an adult. I used to sketch and paint outdoors as a teen but had forgotten the joy that gave me. That reminder alone makes my time worthwhile in reading this book, but there's so much more that pleased me.

My favorite quote shared from a postcard within this book is: "There is no Wi-Fi in the forest, but I promise you will find a better connection." Lovely and so true.

The illustrations in THE CURIOUS NATURE GUIDE are especially beautiful. Some are watercolor impressionism, while others are pen and ink sketches, sometimes with some color added discreetly. I'm especially fond of the cute sketches of animals and creatures that surround or live in trees on page 85. The saddest part about reviewing this book is that my digital advanced reading copy will archive and I won't have it to reference later. I will definitely want a print copy to have on my keeper shelf and maybe one for my dad.

THE CURIOUS NATURE GUIDE combines art, journaling, poems, quotes, music, facts, questions to ponder, animals, insects, fish, phases of the moon, constellations, weather, color and nature in urban areas, while reviving lost memories in a sensory kaleidoscope. Highly recommended for those who love "sharing small wonders," something I'm looking forward to most in the future.

**Review and photos by Dorine, courtesy of The Zest Quest. Digital ARC provided by the publisher.**

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### **Diane says**

From the photography to the illustrations, I loved this book! The author does a great job of encouraging and reminding one to be aware of their surroundings and to connect with nature. There are suggestions and exercises that will help encourage and inspire you to reach out for your creative side and possibly do some sketches or write about your surroundings. It makes you ground and think. It doesn't matter if you live in the city or country, this would make a great gift for someone.

Thank you to NetGalley and Storey Publishing for a digital ARC in exchange for an honest review.

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### **David Ward says**

*The Curious Nature Guide: Explore the Natural Wonders All Around You* by Claire Walker Leslie (Storey Publishing 2015) (508). I'm of two minds about this little nature guide, which the author both wrote and illustrated. The illustrations are absolutely beautiful. Her pages are masterpieces of visual composure. Her watercolors are gorgeous. Her photography is stunning. Yet as much as I admire her artwork, the written text does not rise to the same level. The science and nature of her narrative seems to be aimed at toddler level. I can't even say that her text is intended as an introductory guide to nature, for it's much too elementary and juvenile for that. Perhaps the author intended this to be a children's book all along but was overruled by the editor or publisher. If you have small children or grandchildren, hurry and find this book. Otherwise, give it a pass. My rating: 7/10, finished 2/28/17.

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### ❁ Aimee ❁ **Just one more page... says**

This is an enjoyable mix of ideas and themes. Just reading the book itself was calming, soothing, and inspiring.

The author encourages readers to be more mindful of the natural world around us. We are guided through different ideas for mindfulness and appreciation of the natural world around us. The pages are filled with either photographs or artwork of nature in many different mediums (pen, watercolor, pencil, and more). It is a quick read - with just the right amount of information on each page to be informative and inspiring, but not overwhelming. There are quotes, science facts about animals, insects, plants, weather, stars, and more. There are ideas of activities to do and senses to explore. Readers are encouraged to keep a journal of their forays into nature exploration.

It won't matter if you're in an urban, suburban, or out in the middle of nowhere. It also doesn't matter what season it is. There are wonderful things for you to explore with each of your senses.

The book will appeal to a lot of people.

Those with children can use these ideas to awaken appreciation and awareness of the nature around them. We can ask children to use all their senses, and to get up close and personal to plants, animals, the earth, and wonder at the skies. The ideas in this book can help foster connection with your children.

Others trying to quiet the craziness of the day to day, or to still their mind of all the day's anxiety and stress will find some solace within the pages and activities.

There was one idea I really enjoyed. In Japan they have a term for the idea of walking in the woods for health benefits. It is translated into English as "forest bathing". I love that image.

*Thank you Netgalley and Storey Publishing for a free eARC in exchange for an honest review.*

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### **Eren Y?lmaz says**

So that's how people start keeping journals.

Though it may look so, this book is too inspiring to be a commercial. It gave me lots of ideas that can be applied both practically and occasionally.

## Z says

This kind of beauty makes one a pagan.

First came the bluebells (the English bluebells who were all so weary and gentle).  
But then the roses (red, noble and my Mother's) got the throne.

Now touching a rose is touching divinity.  
Hearing birds reminds me of a very little grave in my backyard  
and a day in December when I drank way too much.

Bluebells wilted. Blue bells are ringing.

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## Am Y says

*My absolute favourite book to date.*

This is a book about nature and how to connect to it. The author talks about many aspects of the natural world, from seasons to landscapes to space and seas and so much more. Each topic comprises a few pages of facts and trivia, and sometimes related quotes or literary extracts. The author then poses questions you can ask yourself concerning your surroundings. The text is usually printed on top of a photo or photos related to that topic, so while you read, at the same time your eyes also take in the breathtaking visuals accompanying the text. *This was a hugely successful formula which I absolutely loved.*

Other notable features:

- Scrapbook-style sort of presentation, but without all the mess and haphazardness.
- Photos mix in with the author's own illustrations.
- Extremely well-designed layout & presentation: every page is chock full with either textual and/or visual information, yet is neat, organised and easy to process, and never cluttered.
- Text is simple, concise, yet deeply thought-provoking.
- Facts presented are fun, interesting and relevant.
- Has the *absolute right mix* of science and spirituality.
- Pages are thick, matte and durable.
- All pictures are stunningly beautiful.

**Overall, this is a very meditative, reflective, inspirational book that will open your eyes to the wonderment of the earth.** An absolute must-read for all nature lovers or people wanting to connect with nature. Will also make a great gift for someone like that.

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## Bill says

### Not good

Wrong format for an ebook; just too small to read on my iPad Mini and expanding pages is a chore. Love the

author's books, pity. About this one.

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### **Angela Newton says**

This is an outstanding book! Anyone, of any age, would enjoy it, I think. The pictures and drawings are gorgeous and it is a delightful riot of bright colors from start to finish. It also really makes you think about nature and how we can all enjoy it on a daily basis, whether we live in the country or city or suburbs. It was so FUN to read, as well. I can not wait to read it again. It also gives you a lot of fun activities and crafts and art projects you can do to enjoy nature. Would be good for parents or teachers to use to help their kids get out in nature and away from the TV and their devices. Or it would be great for a single person who just wants to take a nice walk and get more out of it by appreciating all the nature there is in your area. A wonderful find!

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### **Ietrio says**

Nice try. The author tried to make a pretty book from a lifetime of accumulated New Age superstition. Only somewhere the author got lazy and the cute, yet inexperienced drawings are replaced with stock photography amateurishly collated leading to a quite ugly result.

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### **Lili says**

From Netgalley for a review:

This book is kinda wonderful, blending beauty and simplicity in a way that connects you with nature.

I requested this book from Netgalley because I have been struggling as a naturalist, having moved from the mountains of Pennsylvania to the suburbs of Kansas City a few years ago, I find myself having a rough time connecting with the outside world. Mostly because the summer I moved out here was a record setting drought and heat wave, it in all honesty felt like I had moved to some sort of barren wasteland, a place devoid of nature.

Of course this is foolish because nature is all around, even if you are deep in a city you can find grass growing between pavement cracks, can see the clouds, and the night sky.

This book provides simple prompts combined with art and photography to encourage the reader to explore nature using various senses and more than just the average 'go out and look at the sky'

It is good for people who are wanting to explore nature for the first time and for those who need an occasional reminder to look around you.

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### **CaraMae says**

A lovely perspective into nature.

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