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Winter Reads: Books That Support Your Love of Nature

Gemma Alexander Jan 6, 2021



Spring and summer get all the love, but there’s plenty to celebrate about winter – even after the holidays. Many outdoors enthusiasts already know the joys of snow sports or a walk through the winter woods, while others may prefer to appreciate winter through the window, or even flee to warmer climates. Regardless of your take on cold weather, we’ve found 10 books about the off-season to support your love of nature.

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[The Snowy Day \(https://amzn.to/3r1TB95\)](https://amzn.to/3r1TB95)

by Ezra Jack Keats

Yes, it's a children's picture book. But no other book has captured the simple wonder of exploring a familiar world transformed by snow as well as Ezra Jack Keats' *The Snowy Day* (<https://amzn.to/3r1TB95>). If shoveling the drive has obliterated that wonder for you, this book will remind you that snow can be as magical as it is mundane.

[Birds in Winter: Surviving the Most Challenging Season \(https://amzn.to/34hl90b\)](https://amzn.to/34hl90b)

by Roger F. Pasquier

Birds in Winter (<https://amzn.to/34hl90b>), illustrated with line drawings by Margaret La Farge, is devoted to avian ecology during winter. It explores the ways winter affects birds' lives year-round, whether they winter in place or migrate. There is also a discussion of conservation challenges, including the impact of [climate change \(https://earth911.com/eco-watch/climate-change-101-what-is-climate-change/\)](https://earth911.com/eco-watch/climate-change-101-what-is-climate-change/) on seasonal patterns.

[The Nature of Winter \(https://amzn.to/2WheU8u\)](https://amzn.to/2WheU8u)

by Jim Crumley

In this installment of his four-part series, *Seasons*, English nature writer Jim Crumley explores the winter landscape. In *The Nature of Winter* (<https://amzn.to/2WheU8u>), he observes the struggles of wildlife in the most challenging season, now compounded by climate change. And among his external observations, he reflects on his own relationship with the natural world and his evolution as a writer.

[A Mind of Winter: Poems for a Snowy Season \(https://amzn.to/2K7PXtU\)](https://amzn.to/2K7PXtU)

by Robert Atwan

This book collects 32 poems on the experience of winter with woodcut illustrations by Thomas



Nason. Ranging from classics like James Russell Lowell's "The First Snow Fall" and John Greenleaf Whittier's "Snow-Bound" to contemporary, free form poems like Rafael Campo's "Begging for Change in Winter" and Gertrude Schnackenberg's "The Paperweight," there's something for everyone in *A Mind of Winter* (<https://amzn.to/2K7PXtU>).

[Winter: An Anthology for the Changing Seasons \(https://amzn.to/3859PWx\)](https://amzn.to/3859PWx)

by Melissa Harrison

An anthology of prose and poetry, *Winter* (<https://amzn.to/3859PWx>) spans 700 years of reflection on the quietest season. New works from Patrick Barkham, Satish Kumar, and Anita Sethi combine with excerpts from the work of Robert Macfarlane, James Joyce, and Kathleen Jamie, as well as a collection of contemporary, lesser-known authors, each with their own perspective on winter's rewards.

[There's No Such Thing as Bad Weather \(https://amzn.to/3oQiv90\)](https://amzn.to/3oQiv90)

by Linda Åkeson McGurk

In *There's No Such Thing as Bad Weather* (<https://amzn.to/3oQiv90>), McGurk tells the story of her own culture clash as a Swedish-born American mom, and her experiment moving her American kids to Sweden where [spending time in nature \(https://earth911.com/living-well-being/the-importance-of-kids-being-in-nature/\)](https://earth911.com/living-well-being/the-importance-of-kids-being-in-nature/) is considered as essential to childhood as academics. While not specific to winter, let's face it, winter is the time when it's hard to get kids outside. If you're going crazy with a house full of kids, here's your permission to kick send them outside.

And if you need a little nudge to get out in the frosty fresh air yourself, check out *Friluftsliv: Connect with Nature the Norwegian Way* (<https://amzn.to/3mnmY2i>) by Oliver Luke Delorie. The outdoor companion concept to hygge, friluftsliv is the Norwegian concept of "free life air" or enjoying the outdoors simply. Friluftsliv doesn't require taking up adrenaline-fueled sports or purchasing tons of high-tech gear (although warm clothes help – see McGurk). Instead, it encourages people to get outside on a daily basis year-round.



[A Year Without a Winter \(https://amzn.to/2KbmTSj\)](https://amzn.to/2KbmTSj)

by Dehlia Hannah

A Year Without a Winter (<https://amzn.to/2KbmTSj>) brings together science fiction, history, visual art, and exploration. Inspired by the “year without a summer” and the literary challenge that resulted in Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*, this book includes commissioned stories, essays, and artwork as well as excerpts by Mary Shelley and Lord Byron. Contemporary contributors include Nancy Kress, Nnedi Okorafor, Vandana Singh, Hilairy Hartnett, Nadim Samman, Pablo Suarez, Julian Charrière and Karolina Sobocka, and more.

For another multi-dimensional approach to the impacts of climate change, consider *The Secret Lives of Glaciers* (<https://amzn.to/2WhDmXF>).

[The Winter Garden: Create a Garden that Shines Through the Forgotten Season \(https://amzn.to/3p8rt2H\)](https://amzn.to/3p8rt2H)

by Val Bourne


Even if you prefer to stay indoors during winter, you can make sure the view is lovely. In *The Winter Garden* (<https://amzn.to/3p8rt2H>), Val Bourne describes easy and inexpensive ways to add interest to any winter garden with 200 color photographs and site-specific design plans. She also includes maintenance tips and suggests flowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees that provide drama to the winter landscape.

[Backyard Winter Gardening \(https://amzn.to/3qZFykz\)](https://amzn.to/3qZFykz)

by Caleb Warnock

Even in the coldest climates, it’s possible to eat produce fresh from the garden. If you want to give it a try, the lengthy subtitle of Warnock’s *Backyard Winter Gardening* (<https://amzn.to/3qZFykz>) says it all: Vegetables Fresh and Simple, in Any Climate Without Artificial Heat or Electricity the Way It’s Been Done for 2,000 Years.

Another great all-season gardening guide is Niki Jabbour’s *The Year-Round Vegetable Gardener*


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<https://amzn.to/3agbsDi>).

[Shaped by Snow: Defending the Future of Winter](https://amzn.to/2KuFNmM) (<https://amzn.to/2KuFNmM>)

by Ayja Bounous

Author Ayja Bounous grew up on skis in the mountains of Utah. In *Shaped by Snow* (<https://amzn.to/2KuFNmM>), she explores what winter means to her personally and its impact on her emotional and psychological health as well as its role in her personal relationships. But mixed in with the memoir, she notes the ecological and economic aspects of winter snow, and the uncomfortable conflict inherent in the fact that so many of the winter activities we cherish contribute to the climate change that threatens them.

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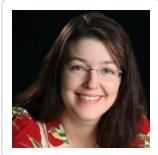
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Gemma Alexander has an M.S. in urban horticulture and a backyard filled with native plants. After working in a genetics laboratory and at a landfill, she now writes about the environment, the arts and family. See more of her writing here (<https://gemmadeealexander.com/>).

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