



## Soul of Nowhere

*Craig Childs , Regan Choi (Photographer)*

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**Soul of Nowhere** Craig Childs , Regan Choi (Photographer)

Childs answers the call of fierce places; the more desolate the landscape, the more passionately he is drawn to it. For Childs, these are the types of terrain that sharpen the senses, and demand a physicality the modern civilized world no longer requires. Includes black-and-white photos and pen-and-ink drawings by the author.

## Soul of Nowhere Details

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Author : Craig Childs , Regan Choi (Photographer)

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# From Reader Review Soul of Nowhere for online ebook

## Ralph says

More of a philosophical and introspective journey through the deserts of the Southwest. Interesting, but I never got the feeling I knew where he was; he seemed to want to keep every place secret to himself, but also write a book about it.

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## Diana Biggs says

In a class all its own, a man after my own heart. Speaks to a love of wild places.

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## Brooke Hayes says

This was a great book, describing the journey of someone who clearly revels in outdoor adventure! Some parts are hard to imagine/ read for those of us that get even a bit squeamish about heights. I found some sections tricky to understand and wanted more pictures! The authors huge degree of respect for cultural artifacts was noted and appreciated.

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## Yuki Schofield says

My first Childs book and I really enjoyed it, like many other reviewers have noted it really is escapism reading. I've spent a little bit of time in the desert and can still remember the dry heat on my skin, the dust on my parched tongue, and the complete silence broken only by the ringing in my ears which slowly fades away after a few days. Where every small sound echos for miles around and the horizon shimmers in the distance blurring reality from your imagination. Reading soul of nowhere takes me back to those memories when stuck in the daily grind of city life and makes me remember freedom, and how it feels to be free from the shackles of responsibility and roam the endless horizon in search of an answer to a question not yet known.

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## Kim says

Fabulous. Prose that passes for poetry from beginning to end.

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## Eva says

Once again not counting toward my year end total books read. I tried; I really did, but Soul of Nowhere went nowhere for me after 2+ chapters in. I am familiar with the types of rugged Southwestern landscapes the author often describes, albeit not on the same intimate level, and I agree there is something awe inspiring and

difficult to capture in words about these places (and likely the other types of crazy, beautiful locations he to which he has gone). The issue for me was that there was no story, no narrative, no skeleton on which he hung his descriptions of these landscapes, just a continual, unbroken stream of pretty words trying to convey their "soul" or magic. The prose struggled and, for me, failed to engage me or transmit the feeling of wonder I assume the author was trying to convey. I respect and on some level envy his engagement with isolated lands once populated by ancient peoples, but I just could not read this all the way through.

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### **Elly Sands says**

I love Craig Childs and I thoroughly enjoy the way he honors nature. He treats the earth like a lover as she continually seduces him. This was not my favorite book of his but it's still poetic and stimulating. It's difficult to separate him as an individual from his surrounding landscapes. There are minimal boundaries. He inhales the natural world and we are fortunate to be the benefactors of his passion.

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### **Nicola says**

I just attended a writing workshop with Craig Childs and Amy Irvine. They both are great story tellers, with an emphasis on just that: the live telling of a good story. They did this presentation, something about a loincloth and the male hunter and the female gatherer. They switched off their tellings, and by the end of it, they had mucked up all genderizing and swapped roles. It was delightful.

In the workshop, Childs emphasized the need to tell in stories, most of us end up trying to show too much. Get back to that telling. You could read most of "Soul of Nowhere" aloud and feel like someone was saying it to you.

What saves the book from solipsism is Crieg's fascination with past cultures and the way he brings them into his present, creating a larger narrative than just a man scrambling around on rocks or mere nature writing.

My favorite scene had to have been when he goes a bit thirst/ration-crazy and almost cuts out his own tongue.

Need to read more of him.

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### **Yune says**

Craig Childs seems to sort of breathe in nature -- not a deliberate inhalation, mind you, just a sort of unthinking absorption that occurs just by being in a place -- and then breathes out these words. His writing style can get a little heady, but hang in there; wait for a gentle mood, let yourself get intoxicated by the secret places in the desert you can only find by wild luck and sheer courage and craftiness and knowing friends. There is no thesis, no concrete point you can carry away from this book except how amazing these abandoned places can be, and how people of ancient times once fit their lives into their settings. What remains of them. How they echo into the present and move us upon their quiet, unexpected discovery.

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### **Amorgan says**

I experienced unencumbered peace while reading this book in which Craig Childs, not for the first time, went into desert areas that showed little signs of habitation. He travels in a primitive manner, carrying minimal supplies and items of comfort. His ongoing curiosity draws him to wander in desert places, sometimes with intent but more often to renew his spirit as he gives himself over to the wilderness of arid canyons and lands. Going wild, he blends with the land, the past, and the ghosts of the ancients. He carries little and frequently travels alone. However, like him, his occasional companions become part of the harsh, remote areas where they wander.

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### **David Arch says**

A communion with the raw nature of the southwest.

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### **Rebecca says**

You feel as if you are walking the ground Childs' is describing. There is an inherent eeriness in the quiet that seems to come along with each discovery, as if the land is hold its breath.

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### **Antonia says**

Craig Childs -- he has my rapt attention when he starts wandering through the desert, seemingly without purpose, but possessed of a notion to discover the places where no one (at least in the recent past) has been. He has the keen eye of a desert traveler and the voice and writing style to keep you interested in a blank canvas of nowhere...but; is the canvas really blank? No, Craig actually finds things out there that haven't been touched for centuries and he takes a short time to admire them, then...put them back and not tell anyone where he is or where he found this ancient artifact. He finds the hidden and nuanced tracteries of where water had once been and assumes that people might have been there too, so he is not disappointed when he finds traces of ancient civilizations. I was engrossed in this book, a collection of essays that take you into the vast outback of places relatively close to home -- the Mexican desert, the deserts of Arizona. A very good read that will transport you and make you want to get out and explore.

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### **Sandra Poucher says**

In what I feel is Mr. Child's most honest book, the author describes his experiences in a landscape both foreign and familiar. The land becomes the best protagonist yet. Beautiful descriptions make me want to race right out there, but caveats render me thoughtful and cautious. This is not a land to be taken lightly.

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**Marianne says**

I plunged into this book and Craig's urge to melt himself into land with cellular understanding and response. It was a comforting place to land throughout my days, coming back to this book. Craig Child provides a space full of searching and hence meaning, and leaning into his books invariably provides balance for me.

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