

Book Review by Barbara Holtzman of **Braiding Sweetgrass** by Robin Wall Kimmerer

While I appreciate looking at beautiful plants and trees, and have used herbs for my health, I never had much interest in their properties or origins. And while I am occasionally touched by a poem, I don't own a book of poetry.

But professor and botanist Robin Wall Kimmerer's best-selling book, "Braiding Sweetgrass" brought me into a love affair with the poetry of her language and the interconnection of all living things. And a deep, profound appreciation of the wisdom and teachings of the Indigenous Peoples, of whom she is a member.

Professor Kimmerer's teachings weave together the interface between science and traditional knowledge in a way that you feel like you have a loving grandmother teaching you all the things you never noticed and never learned. Never again will I see a strawberry or an ash tree as something simply to be consumed or admired. Or taken for granted.

I can't think of a greater gift for the ecology movement.

I hope every Native person will read this book, not only for its teachings and beauty, but to feel the pride of their heritage.

And for those of us who have seen Indigenous Peoples as "other," I envision that racism and bias melting through our appreciation for the Native wisdom and their offerings to all of us.

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