

Uncover the Enchanting Celtic Landscape from Ireland to the Driftless - An Extraordinary Journey Awaits!

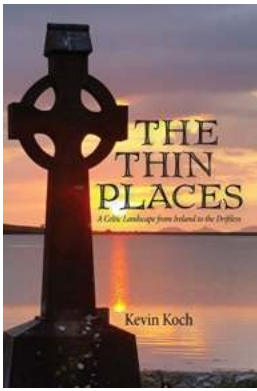
Welcome to a mesmerizing journey through the captivating Celtic landscapes that span from Ireland to the Driftless region. Brace yourself for an extraordinary adventure as we explore the rich heritage, breathtaking beauty, and mystical allure of these enchanting lands. Join us as we unravel the mysteries, traditions, and natural wonders that define these landscapes and leave a lasting impression on all who visit.

The Celtic Heritage

Before delving deeper into the specifics of these mesmerizing landscapes, let us take a moment to appreciate the profound Celtic heritage that forms the foundation of these regions. The Celts, an ancient European people with a vibrant and distinct culture, have left an indelible mark on the lands they once called home. Their language, art, music, myths, and traditions continue to inspire and fascinate us to this day.

Exploring the Irish Countryside

Our journey begins on the Emerald Isle, Ireland, where the allure of rolling hills, dramatic cliffs, and verdant landscapes beckon visitors from across the globe. From the iconic Cliffs of Moher to the mystical landscapes of County Kerry, Ireland's countryside is a testament to the timeless beauty of nature. Immerse yourself in the rich culture and warm hospitality of the Irish people as you embark on scenic drives, hiking trails, and visits to ancient castles and monastic sites.



The Thin Places: A Celtic Landscape from Ireland to the Driftless by Kevin Koch (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 2473 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 174 pages
Lending : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported



Scotland's Majestic Highlands

As we move further north, we find ourselves in the land of kilts, bagpipes, and tartans - Scotland. The rugged beauty of the Scottish Highlands is unparalleled, with its mystical lochs, imposing mountains, and picturesque villages. Traverse the dramatic landscapes that have inspired legends and novels, and be captivated by the charm of Edinburgh, a city steeped in history and grace. Let the haunting melodies of traditional Scottish music guide you through this magical land.

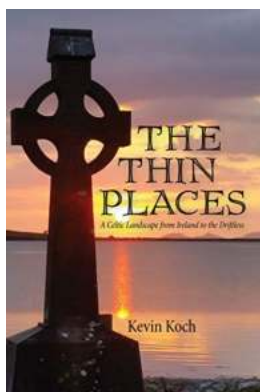
Wales - Land of Myths and Legends

Our journey now takes us westward to Wales, a land adorned with serene valleys, towering castles, and ancient ruins. Discover the legends of King Arthur and immerse yourself in the enchanting beauty of Snowdonia National Park. Meander through charming Welsh towns and villages, and witness the power of nature in the cascading waterfalls and imposing mountains. Wales is a land steeped in mythology and an ancient Celtic language that continues to thrive.

The Enigmatic Driftless Region

Last but certainly not least, we venture across the Atlantic to the lesser-known Driftless region in the United States. Nestled within the states of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois, this geologically unique area showcases stunning landscapes that defy the glacial forces that once shaped the surrounding regions. With its limestone bluffs, deep river valleys, and lush forests, the Driftless region offers an unexpected tapestry of beauty and tranquility that transports visitors to a different world.

The Celtic landscapes from Ireland to the Driftless region are a testament to the boundless wonders of nature and the enduring spirit of cultures long past. Whether you embark on a pilgrimage to Ireland's ancient sites, a Highland adventure in Scotland, a journey through the mystical valleys of Wales, or an exploration of the hidden gem that is the Driftless region, you are guaranteed an experience that will leave an indelible mark on your soul. So pack your bags, embrace the allure of the Celtic lands, and prepare for a journey of a lifetime!



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In Irish Celtic lore, "thin places" are those locales where the veil between this world and the otherworld is porous, where there is mystery in the landscape. The earth takes on the hue of the sacred among peoples whose connection to place has remained unbroken through the ages. What happens, then, when a Celtic view of nature is brought home to a North American landscape in which many inhabitants' ancestral connections to place are surface-thin?

In a quest to find a deeper spiritual landscape in his own home, Kevin Koch applies eight principles of a Celtic spiritual view of nature to places in Ireland and to the American Midwest's rugged Driftless Area, an unglaciated region of river bluffs, rock outcrops, and steeply wooded hills.

The Thin Places brings onsite mountaineering guides, spiritual leaders, geologists, and archaeologists alongside scholars in the fields of Celtic studies, religion, and conservation. But the text never strays far from story, from a trek through the Wicklow Mountains and the bogs of Western Ireland or among ancient Native American burial mounds and abandoned nineteenth-century lead mines in the bluffs above the Mississippi River.

"It is tempting to say that *The Thin Places* explores two unconnected lands--except the point of Kevin Koch's wise and watchful book is precisely that there are no unconnected places. Whether in the Driftless region or in the spirit-haunted West of Ireland, Koch comprehends the numinous, and his lyric prose reveals how landscape and myth speak to us in ways somehow both outside and beyond language."

--James Silas Rogers, Editor, *New Hibernia Review: A Record of Irish Studies*

"In *The Thin Places*, Kevin Koch offers a unique journey into place, history, and spirit. He leads us in a revealing conversation between two particular landscapes--between Dubuque and Dublin, Iowa and Ireland, the Driftless and the Druidic, the indigenous and immigrant. In juxtaposing these realms, he expands his, and

our, perspective on what it means to dwell deeply in any place.

--Curt Meine, Co-editor, *The Driftless Reader*

"A quest through time and geography, a parting of the veil between the known and mysterious, Kevin Koch's *The Thin Places* will ignite your curiosity and lead you to reconceive your own home ground."

--Tamara Dean, *Driftless-area* author of *The Human-Powered Home*

"Kevin Koch's *The Thin Places* is a work of deep thoughtfulness and pressing urgency. In drawing connections between Ireland and the Driftless region, this book works like a loom, weaving together seemingly disparate threads into a single, beautiful fabric, and inspiring us to root ourselves more deeply in our native places."

--Austin Smith, author of *Flyover Country: Poems*

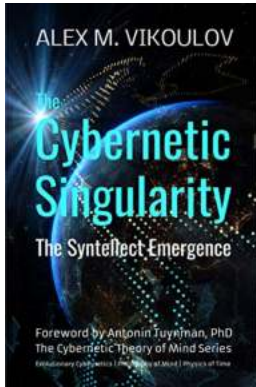
Kevin Koch teaches Creative Nonfiction at Loras College. He is author of *Skiing at Midnight: A Nature Journal from Dubuque County, Iowa* and *The Driftless Land: Spirit of Place in the Upper Mississippi Valley*. His work has been published in *The North American Review*, *Big Muddy*, *The Wapsipinicon Almanac*, and in area newspapers.

When not teaching or writing, Koch can be found bicycling, hiking, and kayaking throughout the Driftless Area of the Upper Mississippi Valley.



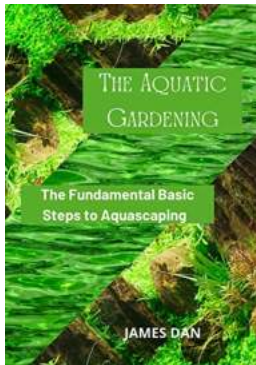
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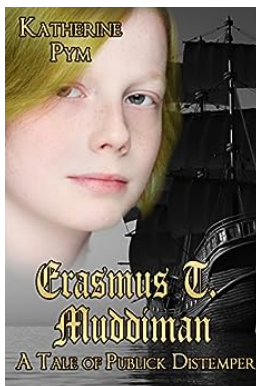
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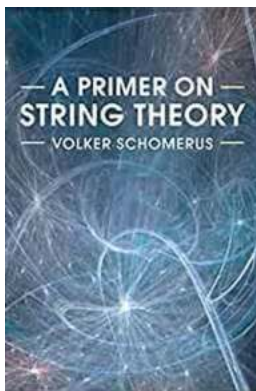
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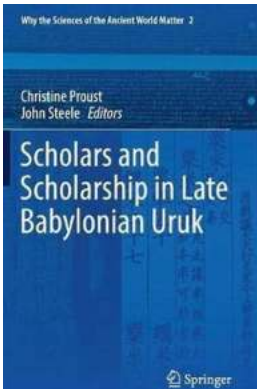
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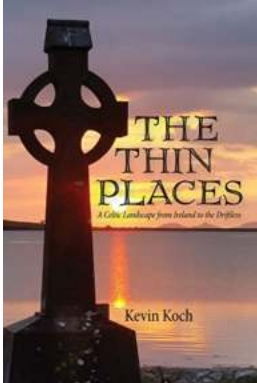
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