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Book review of "Tigers & Ice: Reflections on Nature and Life" by Edward Hoagland

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Hoagland, Edward. *Tigers & Ice: Essays on Life and Nature*. Lyons. 1999. c.224p. LC 98-36477. ISBN 1-55821-742-8. \$22. NAT HIST

Hoagland (*Balancing Acts*, LJ 9/15/92; *Heart's Desire*, LJ 9/15/88), a former serviceman, firefighter, and circus hand turned college instructor, has returned to the same isolated rural Vermont homestead for some 30 springs to write and to observe the rhythms of nature. During the past decade he lost and regained his eyesight, turned 60, and traveled extensively. The tranquility and the turmoil have provided material for the 11 essays (all previously published) that comprise this collection. The most engrossing selections are travelogs on India and Antarctica, the lands of tigers and ice, respectively; the least compelling is a fragmented "journal sampler." All contain lyrical if sometimes melancholic mixings of Hoagland's observations of the natural world and his contemplation of his own singularly varied life. Recommended for public and academic libraries.--Nancy Curtis, Fogler Lib., Univ. of Maine, Orono

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