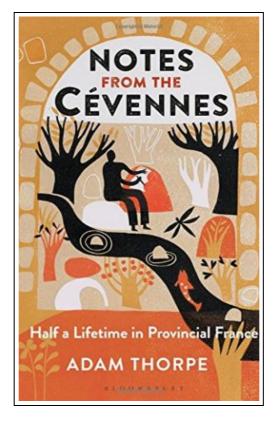
Notes from the Cevennes: Half a Lifetime in Provincial France (Hardback)



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NOTES FROM THE CEVENNES: HALF A LIFETIME IN PROVINCIAL FRANCE (HARDBACK)



Bloomsbury Publishing PLC, United Kingdom, 2018. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English. Brand New Book. Adam Thorpe's home for the past 25 years has been an old house in the Cevennes, a wild range of mountains in southern France. Prior to this, in an ancient millhouse in the oxbow of a Cevenol river, he wrote the novel that would become the Booker Prize-nominated Ulverton, now a Vintage Classic. In more recent writing Thorpe has explored the Cevennes, drawing on the legends, history and above all the people of this part of France for his inspiration. In his charming journal, Notes from the Cevennes, Thorpe takes up these themes, writing about his surroundings, the village and his house at the heart of it, as well as the contrasts of city life in nearby Nimes. In particular he is interested in how the past leaves impressions - marks - on our landscape and on us. What do we find in the grass, earth and stone beneath our feet and in the objects around us? How do they tie us to our forebears? What traces have been left behind and what marks do we leave now? He finds a fossil imprinted in the single worked stone of his house s front doorstep, explores the attic once used as a silk factory and contemplates the stamp of a chance paw in a fragment of Roman roof-tile. Elsewhere, he ponders mutilated fleur-de-lys (French royalist symbols) in his study door and unwittingly uses the tomb-rail of two sisters buried in the garden as a gazebo. Then there are the personal fragments that make up a life and a family history: memories dredged up by `dusty toys, dried-up poster paints, a painted clay lump in the bottom of a box. Part celebration of both rustic and...



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