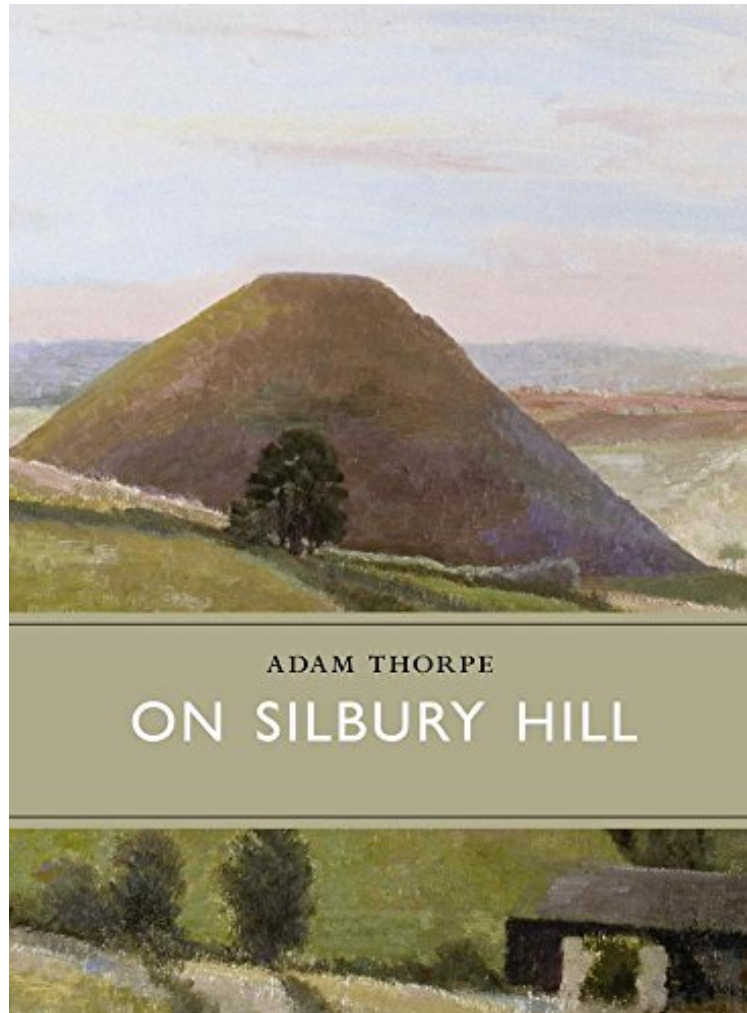


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On Silbury Hill (Little Toller Monographs)

Adam Thorpe

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Adam Thorpe : On Silbury Hill (Little Toller Monographs) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised On Silbury Hill (Little Toller Monographs):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful--a must-readBy E.M. TennesenThis is an exceptional memoir built around childhood experiences of Silbury Hill in the UK. A neolithic monument, the author's experience of it has followed him into his adult life and informed his writing and thoughts about the world. Thorpe skillfully blends passages and memories of his life with explanations of the archeology behind Silbury Hill, and the speculations surrounding why the hill exists and what it was used for. His use of language is wonderful, full of vibrant images and feelings. His descriptions of the Hill and nature in the area make you feel as if you are visiting there, yourself.If you enjoy history, archaeology, nature and fine writing, this book is for you. I plan to read more Adam Thorpe. As for this Little Toller printing, the book is a treasure. Printed on lovely, thick paper, the book is small-sized

to slip into a purse or pocket, and the book jacket is a wrap-around painting of Silbury. Illustrations, photos and more abound of the Hill and the author's life within the book.

Silbury Hill has perplexed generations of people - a large and ancient man-made hill, its purpose remains a mystery. This book is Adam Thorpe's personal exploration of this vast landscape structure.

"There is no contemporary I admire more than Adam Thorpe - His new book *On Silbury Hill* is an experiment in psycho-geography, partly a memoir, partly an exploration of the strange prehistoric landscape of Wiltshire - A book that is not only fascinating to read but a pleasure to hold in the hand." (HILARY MANTEL, *Vogue*) ----- "You should burrow in and discover this for yourself, but what makes *On Silbury Hill* such a rich and evocative book of place are the myriad two-way hauntings he proposes between people and landscapes over time." (PAUL FARLEY, *Guardian*) ----- "It seems to me to be everything that a book ought to be or should want to be: beautiful, suggestive, personal, knowing and uncertain, old but of now, funny and modest and ripe in its lived-in ways." (TIM DEE, author of *The Running Sky* and *Four Fields*) ----- "In a fascinating series of interwoven strands, this book blends history, myth, archaeology, topography and poetry, and always leads us back to the haunting beauty of the question: 'Why?' " (BEL MOONEY, *Daily Mail*) ----- "On *Silbury Hill* [is] a remarkable and moving mix of history, autobiography and genius loci - packed with erudition, enthusiasm and rapt personal engagement." (WILLIAM BOYD, *New Statesman Books of the Year*) ----- "His writing spills out hot and fierce as summer wind, scouring the chalky, ancient Ridgeway and buffering up against the confounding slopes of Silbury Hill itself, concluding that 'ingenuity and accident and maybe a dose of genius' played their part in its creation. The same could be said of this excellent book." (VICKY CAROL, *Big Issue*) ----- " - impressive elegance and concision - evocative and moving - a lament for something modern man has largely lost - a deeply personal and idiosyncratic memoir." (ANTHONY HEAD, *Times Literary Supplement*) ----- "All impressive detective-work and field research aside, *On Silbury Hill* is a fine stand-alone memoir. But it's more than that. It is a love letter, a homage to an object, a place and a symbol that has provided succour and mystery and hope and wonder." (BEN MYERS, *Caught by the River*) ----- "A deeply personal book written in precise and beautiful prose." (JOHN OWEN, *Country Town House*) "He seeks a blend of the personal and the scientific - that raises profound questions about what archaeology can understand of the past. With the book's attractive feel, and clear and often memorable writing, 'interpretive archaeology' never came so seductively packaged." (MIKE PITTS, *British Archaeology*) ----- "Honest enough to admit that we cannot hope to do more than conjecture - and yet sympathetic to successive archaeological, psychological, poetic and spiritual interpretations, Thorpe proves an engaging guide to a landscape steeped in secrets." (GREG NEALE, *Resurgence Ecologist*) ----- "What I particularly love about the whole book - is the openness of this dry, wry, sometimes angry, often self-deprecating historian to - the intrusion of memory and magic." (RUTH DAVIS, *Nature and the common good*) ----- "Some books slipped quietly onto the shelves this year, none more so than Adam Thorpe's *On Silbury Hill* (Little Toller Books, GBP15), a wonderfully idiosyncratic but deeply informed personal essay on what might well be the most mysterious of England's landmarks." (JOHN BURNSIDE, *The Herald*) ***** Book of the Week on BBC Radio 4 (August 2014) ***** Longlisted for the Wainwright Prize 2015 ***** About the Author Adam Thorpe was born in Paris in 1956 and brought up in India, Cameroon and southern England. His first collection of poetry, *Mornings in the Baltic*, was published in 1988 and was shortlisted for the Whitbread Poetry Award. His first novel, *Ulverton*, a panoramic view of rural English history, was published to great critical acclaim in 1992 and is now considered a modern classic. He has since published nine novels, five collections of poetry and two books of short stories. He has also published new translations of Flaubert's *Madame Bovary* and Emile Zola's *Therese Raquin*, had a stage play performed almost entirely in Berkshire dialect, and written numerous radio plays. He lives in France with his family and currently teaches at the *Ecole Superieure des Beaux Arts de Nimes* and at the *University of Nimes*.