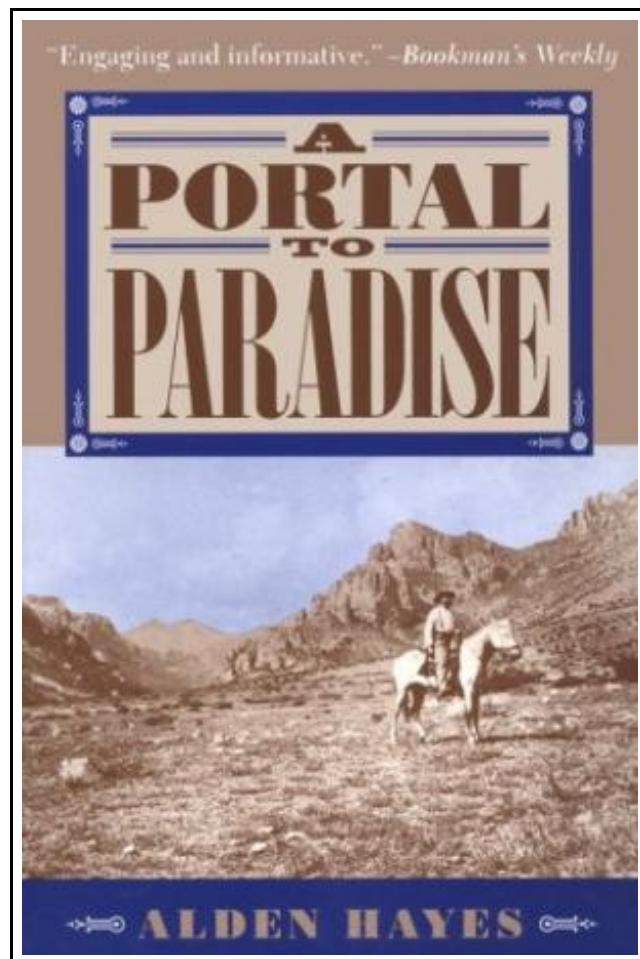


A Portal to Paradise



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A PORTAL TO PARADISE

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University of Arizona Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 424 pages. Dimensions: 9.1in. x 6.1in. x 1.1in. Arizonas rugged Chiricahua Mountains have a special place in frontier history. They were the haven of many well-known personalities, from Cochise to Johnny Ringo, as well as the home of prospectors, cattlemen, and hardscrabble farmers eking out a tough living in an unforgiving landscape. In this delightful and well-researched book, Alden Hayes shares his love for the area, gained over fifty years. From his vantage point near the tiny twin communities of Portal and Paradise on the eastern slopes of the Chiricahuas, Hayes brings the famous and the not-so-famous together in a profile of this striking landscape, showing how place can be a powerful formative influence on peoples lives. When Hayes first arrived in 1941 to manage his new father-in-laws apple orchard, he met folks who had been born in Arizona before it became a state. Even if most had never personally worried about Indian attacks, they had known people who had. Over the years, Hayes heard the handed-down stories about the areas early days of Anglo settlement. He also researched census records, newspaper archives, and the files of the Arizona Historical Society to uncover the areas natural history, prehistory, Spanish and Mexican regimes, and particularly its Anglo history from the mid nineteenth century to the beginning of World War II. His book is a rich account of the region and more, a celebration of rural life, brimming with tales of people whose stories were shaped by the landscape. Today the Chiricahuas are a magnet for outdoor enthusiasts and the site of the American Museum of Natural Histories Southwestern Research Stationand still a rugged area that remains off the beaten track. Hayes brings his straightforward and articulate style to this captivating account of earlier...

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