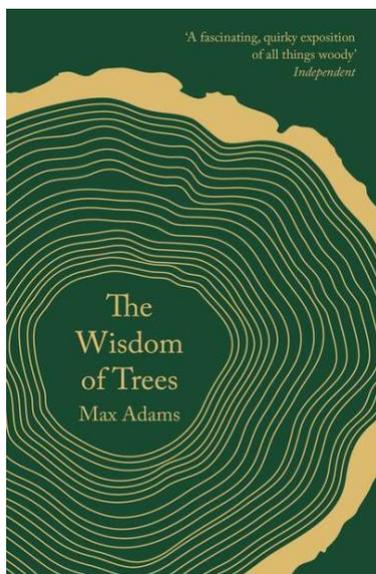


Bookology – Opinion and Reflection

The Wisdom of Trees by Max Adams

Written by Tiago Miranda



“We have nothing to fear and a great deal to learn from trees, that vigorous and pacific tribe which without stint produces strengthening essences for us...”

Marcel Proust

With his soft-written arguments and precise tree appreciation, **Max Adams** does not leave his reader alone travelling through the forest without a glimpse of knowledge. Max leads the way to demonstrate his love by the wood and its growth. As a woodman himself, words are spelled by certain wisdom that whoever is reading may become a tree passionate without any hesitation.

Through the book, you may find beautiful and coincide quotes and poems about the natural world, which one way or another, it involves plants and their behaviour toward the environment. He takes science to a simple level of observation and throws jargon softly at you, but not expecting reactions or controversies. He is determined to defend his point, and he does. This shows, at least to me, that he dominates the subject and after years of experience managing his forest, he really knows what he is talking about.

Some might argue that nowadays the concept of plant intelligence may contradict Max's thoughts, at least according to what he had written in his book. Probably so, as he says: *“trees don't know they are doing it, you understand...*

Bookology – Opinion and Reflection

they just do". Either way, I do not think it clashes with today's concept that a plant solves problems. We all know they are not conscious in doing so. Most probable the reason why Adam refuses such concept is the fact that plants have different interactions within the environment not yet understood deeply by science, which by the way, Adam reaffirms throughout the book many times.

One of my favourite quotes is this one: *"Woody plants are like cities, with bundles of arteries linking production and consumption; power stations collecting and transporting energy; manufactories churning out raw materials and bespoke engineering solutions; communications hubs and invisible infrastructures held in a tight network, fantastically interconnected and unimaginably functioning as a single organism"*.