

# “more poets. fewer lawyers...”

Ed Abbey

---Amy Brunvand



## Stars

The Christmas lights seem increasingly desperate  
 This time of year in their struggle against darkness,  
 Blinking red and green, blue and white  
 Trying to push back the Winter Solstice  
 With an hysterical flurry of electric  
 Bulbs. For all the talk about stars  
 And baby Jesus, it seems more like a frantic  
 Fear of the dark. God's stars have disappeared  
 Into the man-made glare of the city  
 Only Venus, Saturn, Mars and Jupiter  
 Mimic stars in the depleted sky.  
 You'd never guess the Pleiades were there  
 Or that one long arm of our spiral galaxy  
 Wraps around us as the Milky Way.



**Amy Brunvand is a librarian, writer, and part-time nature mystic from Salt Lake City, Utah. She agrees with Edward Abbey that the environmental movement needs more poets and fewer lawyers (even though some of her best friends are lawyers).**

## Sage Grouse

*“The only good place for a sage grouse to be listed is on the menu of a French bistro.” — Jason Chaffetz (R-UT-3)*

*“It's disappointing that some Members of Congress are more interested in political posturing than finding solutions to conserve the sagebrush landscape and the Western way of life.”*

*— Interior Secretary Sally Jewell*

The road stretches  
 Before us, black asphalt  
 Pencil sharpened  
 Into a perspective arrow  
 Pointing out immensity,  
 Red cliffs slash the horizon  
 The Sagebrush Sea around us  
 Ebbs and flows, silver-grey  
 Shrubs surge in leafy tides.

At a curve in the road  
 A yellow diamond caution  
 Alerts us to their presence—  
 Silhouettes cast  
 By shadow sage grouse  
 Their spiked tail feathers  
 Rays of light emanating  
 From the Virgin of Guadalupe.

Somewhere radiant  
 Roosters fan and strut,  
 Puff out yellow air sacs,  
 Sing like percolating coffee,  
 Pop like champagne corks.

A puff of dust  
 Sprouts chicken feet,  
 Tumbleweeds preen,  
 Two grey hens  
 Bob their heads, brooding  
 In clucking consultation,  
 Should they cross the road?  
 Or not.



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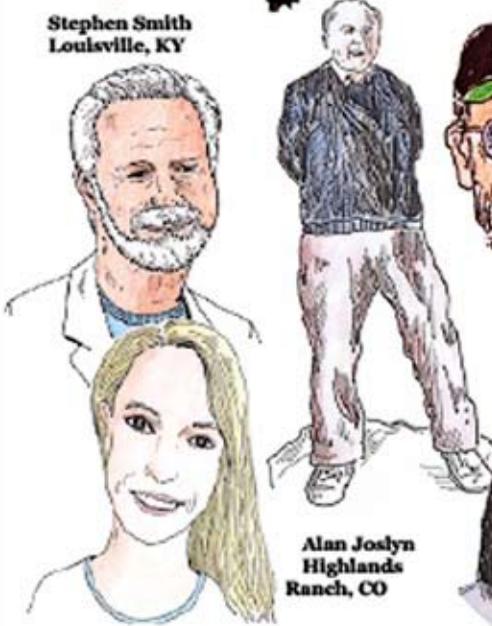
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