

# The WILDER WEST...

the Art & Wit of DAVE WILDER



West of the Tropics...

Funny how we humans all crave paradise. I'm not talking about any hypothetical paradise beyond the grave either; that always just sounded like a bore to me. No, I'm talking about real, flower scented, bare breasted, warm and sandy, sin-filled, earthly paradise.

Of course, there is an entire industry dedicated to providing that dream of paradise to us. They pave it, package it and sanitize it for our protection. And it doesn't matter if we are talking about Maui or Moab, the Paradise Industrial Complex is there for us, turning what was once wild and mysterious into something safe, easy and marketable.

There's big money in paradise. Mr. Stiles calls it the "amenities economy" and that's as good a name for it as any. We all use it, feed into it, profit from it. We are all of us, by sheer numbers alone, complicit in the exploitation and destruction of paradise. As John Muir said, "nothing dollar-able is safe."

But we continue to crave it, as a dream unfulfilled, as a tonic for work-a-day life, as an antidote for civilization, as a place to hide. Maybe we all need to look closer to home. Happiness isn't a place after all, and no matter where you go, there you are.

DW

*Dave Wilder's art can be seen at:*  
**<http://www.wilderarts.com>**

and at the  
**Laughing Raven Gallery**  
**417 Hull Ave.**  
**Jerome, Arizona**

and on facebook:  
**"David Wilder Arts"**



Notes on Paper

a poem



by Damon Falke

In **Notes on Paper**, Falke walks us through the landscape of one man's mind, which contains both his past and an awareness of our common future. From within private memories the narrator reaches out to us with 'we' and 'you', and each spare line invokes the hope that we, like him, are worthy of return to our most longed for places. And if to return is not our fate,

and really it never can be, the narrator bids us survey our own memories, taking time in the present for the winds, and the words, that move the world.

NOTES ON PAPER  
DAMON FALKE

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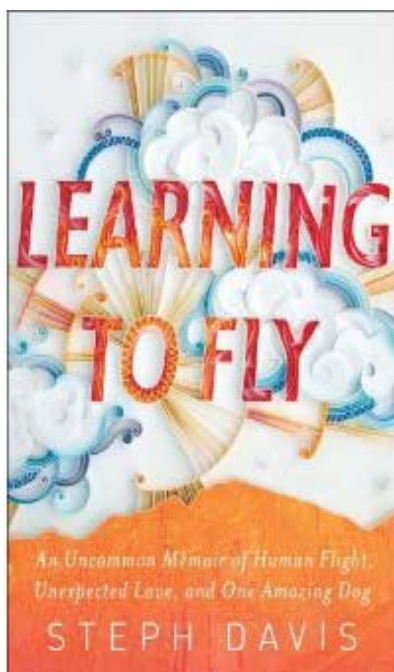


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