

The anti-development material is extremely important, giving an urgency to what would otherwise be a pastoral excursion. But I think it would be more effective if Hazel revealed her attitude more slowly, rather than staying on the attack throughout. The early encounters with destruction and littering and tampering might be presented flat, without comment, as happenings -- perhaps mysterious, but with no more hostility toward the perpetrator than toward the cat catching a robin, the moonsnail opening a scallop. This would let the reader become indignant on his own. He'd absorb the beauty of the island, the delights it offers an observant person, and he'd sense the menace of change. Then, after he'd fallen in love with the island as it is, Hazel can let him have it with the revelation that all this is at risk, perhaps already lost.

I think there should be a section toward the end of the book where the extent of the development is ~~xxxx~~ spelled out in terms of acres of bulldozing, miles of road, potential increase in population, and a statement of the effects. In sports terms, I'd like to see her try to set up the development for a knockout, rather than to cut it up across the full 15 rounds. In family terms, don't nag -- have a good fight.

Other than the question of strategy on the conservation theme, my only suggestion as to the text is that I wish it had something about seals: hair seals and Solomon seals.

This is a delightful book. It's a stroll in the woods and along the beach with a wise friend who passes measured and unexpected judgments on a spectrum of acquaintances among the flora and fauna.

I hope that you plan to use some strong, old-fashioned line-drawings of the plants, and to include an index, or key to the names. That reminds me: I was faintly troubled by the way in which the Latin names of the plants were introduced. It jarred amid the informality, though by mid-book I no longer noticed it. Perhaps it would be better to use the common names throughout and to have a Latin-vulgate, vulgate-Latin

