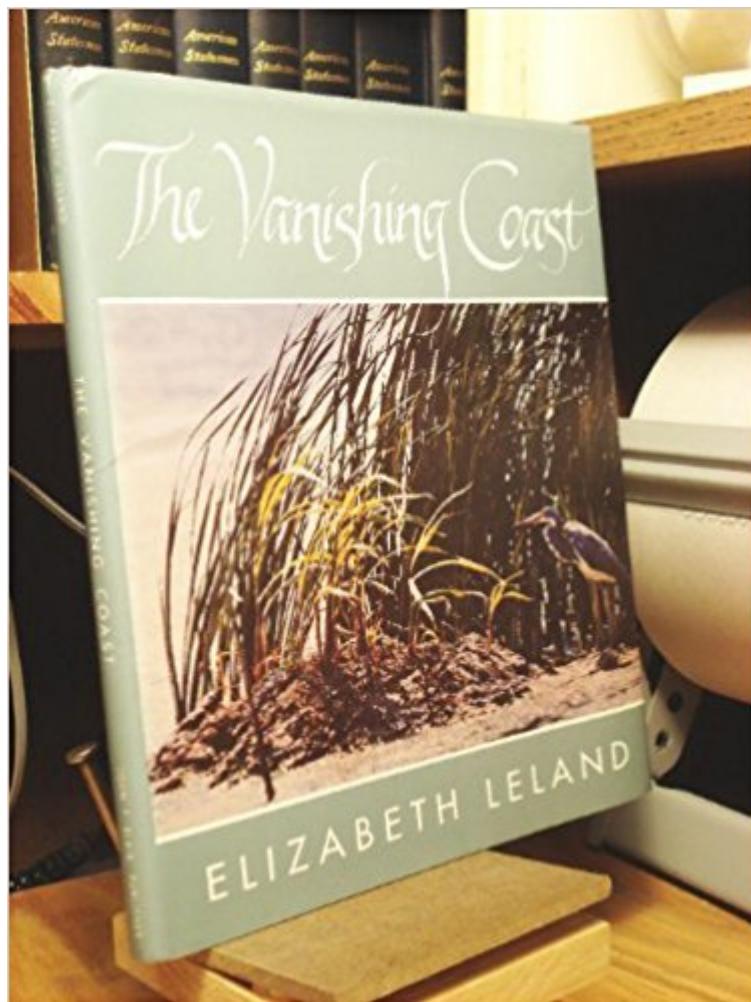


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The Vanishing Coast



Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Vanishing Coast is about Daufuski Island (one of the last untouched sea islands off the coast of South Carolina. It is located barely a mile southwest of the popular Hilton Head Island resort and within view of the skyline of Savannah, Georgia, but it is accessible only by boat. Its remoteness gives it a timeless quality. When Elizabeth Leland arrived on Daufuskie Island she found that Time had finally caught up with it. What Leland found was an island divided into two worlds: one inhabited by the descendants of slaves, the other by wealthy vacationers and property owners who had come to Daufuskie to enjoy its remote quality. Leland's story effectively used the words of the people directly affected by the changes to explain the controversy surrounding the development of the island. The fate of Daufuskie provided to be symptomatic of what Leland found throughout her travels down the coastal highway 17: lifestyles, communities, and natural areas were endangered by development or threatened by nature. The Vanishing Coast should serve as a warning for the future, a future where the beaches have become an exclusive domain of land-holders and off-limits to the general public. The Vanishing Coast is Leland's celebration of the history and the future of a vanishing South Carolina coastline, and an offer of hope that the coast will remain everybody's heritage for generations to come. Essential reading! -- Midwest Book Review

By far, one of the best books I have ever read. Ms. Leland has done a great job of capturing the essence of life along the Carolina coast, with many of the short stories looking at lifestyles of a simpler time. Her sharp writing style makes the reader feel as though one is actually living within the

pages of this fascinating read. I have read this book from cover to cover many times. Highly recommended beach reading, but certainly appropriate for anytime of the year!!!

This is fine book, written in beautiful, lucid prose, full of stunning B&W photographs. Featured are off-the-beaten-path places like the teeny-tiny post office in Salvo on the Outer Banks and the grave of the famous, eccentric Fort Fisher hermit who once mesmerized visitors to his home in a WW II bunker near Carolina beach. The author, a native of Charleston and a veteran columnist for the Charlotte Observer, has interviewed natives of the last unchanged and rapidly changing places along the Carolina coast. Most of the islands and coastal towns (from Hilton Head to small Outer Banks towns to Charleston) along the coasts of the Carolinas are represented. The author interviewed and photographed: descendants of slaves who still make sweetgrass baskets in the old tradition; the last of the old-time clam rakers, crab pickers, and boat builders who discuss what new ways have done to their livelihoods, the "Live-Aboards", folks who left their nine-to-five lives to live on modest boats along the water's edge; the Menhaden Chanteymen, a group of singing black fisherman who were once an institution in the days "when boats were made of wood, and men of steel

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