



Summer Doorways

A Memoir

W. S. MERWIN

NOW IN PAPERBACK

An elegant recollection of the prize-winning poet's transformative journey overseas

MARKETING

- Review copy mailing to national and regional dailies
- Newsletter co-op available

PUBLISHING HISTORY

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America today is a mobile society. Many of us travel abroad, and few of us live in the towns or cities where we were born. It wasn't always so. "Travel from America to Europe became a commonplace, an ordinary commodity, some time ago, but when I first went such departure was still surrounded with an atmosphere of adventure and improvisation, and my youth and inexperience and my all but complete lack of money heightened that vertiginous sensation," writes W. S. Merwin. Twenty-one, married, and graduated from Princeton, the poet embarked on his first visit to Europe in 1948 when life and traditions on the continent were still adjusting to the postwar landscape. *Summer Doorways* captures Merwin at a similarly pivotal time before he won the Yale Younger Poets Award in 1952 for his first book, *A Mask for Janus*—the moment was, as the author writes, "an entire age just before it was gone, like a summer."

Praise for W. S. Merwin

"Delightful... Merwin shares his eyes and ears with us—without telling us what to think. Yes, we just float along. But for the young poet, the experience evidently meant more. He learned new languages, discovered hidden corners and, one gets the feeling, grew up. Perhaps that's why Merwin remembers it so well. The summer ended, but even now it continues to bear fruit." —*New York Times*

"Masterful: A refreshing break from our tell-all world." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"Merwin's gracious tone and unruffled observations of people and events make this a finely nuanced memoir, full of the pleasure he found in living and recalling his unfolding adventure." —*Seattle Post-Intelligencer*

"Merwin (*The Ends of the Earth*) is best at succinct, decisive cameos: Characters enter his enchanted sphere, then vanish, such as the visiting young Samuel Beckett, memorable for the exquisite fineness of his cucumber slicing. Purposefully incomplete... Merwin's book traces lost worlds." —*Publishers Weekly*

W. S. MERWIN has written more than forty books of poetry, prose, translation, and, most recently, *Migration: New & Selected Poems*, winner of the 2005 National Book Award, and *Present Company*. He has been honored with the Pulitzer Prize, Bollingen Award, the first Tanning Award, the Ruth Lily Prize, and many others. He lives in Hawai'i.

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