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wild life

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A year of _____ had sharpened the caution of Arizona. "Miss Zane, I am learning to love this free, _____ . He told tales of how easily white boys become Indianized, so attached to the _____ and freedom of the redmen that it was impossible to get the captives to return to civilized life. Yet her heart held a grain of pity for him. She measured his forbearance, his struggle, against the monstrous cruelty and passion engendered by a _____ among wild men at a wild time. Kells's prophecy of the _____ Joan would see had not been without warrant. "There's nothing left but _____ that makes you forget?" It was the roar of the camp down there--the strife, the agony, the _____ in ceaseless action--the strange voice of gold, roaring greed and battle and death over the souls of men. They all want the free, easy, _____ of this gold-camp. You love the adventure--the _____ . The lofty plateau with its healing breath of sage and juniper had given back strength to him; the silence and solitude and strife of his surroundings had called to something deep within him; but it was Mescal who made this _____ sweet and significant. For he knew now, as well as he could feel Silvermane's easy stride, that out there under the white glare of desert, the white gleam of the slopes of Coconina, was _____ awaiting him. I thought, as I listened to the penetrating voice of the hound, that nowhere on earth could there be a grander scene for wild action, _____ . Then her spirit, always strong, and now freer for this new, _____ of the frontier, rose within her, and she dismissed all thoughts of this man and his passion. I have just a faint idea of what a _____ you have led. You can't see I've been another man, loving you, working for you, living for you? You won't believe I've turned my back on the old _____ , that I've been decent and honorable and happy and useful--your kind of a cowboy? Never in all his _____ had he so longed to go out and meet men face to face. Duane doubted not that he, like many a young man, had drifted out to the frontier, where rough and _____ had wrought sternly but had not quite effaced the mark of good family. This wandering forest life of his did not indicate that he did not care for the villagers, for he did care, and he was welcome everywhere, but that he loved _____ and solitude and beauty with the primitive instinctive force of a savage. "Milt, you should give up that _____ --an' marry--an' have a home." Milt, old Al doesn't approve of your _____ , but he never had no hard feelin's till the tame lion of yours killed so many of his sheep." My religion, maybe, is love of life-- _____ as it was in the beginnin'--an' the wind that blows secrets from everywhere, an' the water that sings all day an' night, an' the stars that shine constant, an' the trees that speak somehow, an' the rocks that aren't dead. As I told you, the lion is absolutely necessary to the health an' joy of _____ --or deer's _____ , so to speak. Bo gave up to the _____ , to the horses and rides, to the many pets, and especially to the cougar, Tom. And it seems that again I must try to pierce both and to get at the strange _____ of the last American wilderness--wild still, almost, as it ever was. "I want to see some _____ . Nonnezoshe Boco needed life, _____ , life of its millions of years--and here stood the dark and silent Indian. She had finally accepted the _____ of this border as something terrible and inevitable, but passing. Steele was one of the strange and great and misunderstood men who were making that _____ pass. Already the spell of its _____ and the grim and haunting faces had begun to fade out of my memory. He was eager to ask questions; to know about the rafts, the river, the forest, the Indians--everything in connection with this _____ ; but already he had learned that questioning these frontiersmen is a sure means of closing their lips. By the forms of _____ along the banks of the river, this strange intruder on their peace was regarded with attention. The lad had preferred to roam with the lonely Indian-hunter through the forests, to encounter the perils and hardships of a _____ , rather than accept the smile of fortune and of love. Nonnezoshe needed life, _____ , life of its millions of years--and here stood the dark and silent Indian. No man could have gazed into that marvel of color and distance, with _____ about him, with wild sounds ringing in his ears, without yielding to the throb and race of his wild blood. Solitude and lonesomeness, peace and rest, _____ and nature, reigned there. "Neale, you're hungry for _____ ?" They stood there, the elder man looking all the sadness and inevitableness of that _____ , and the younger, the cowboy, slowly changing to iron. And deeper than before he plunged into Benton's _____ . It would be something to remember and boast of when Benton with its _____ should be a thing of the past. The woodpeckers only learned how Miss Mary was an orphan; how she left her uncle's house, to come to California, for the sake of health and independence; how Sandy was an orphan, too; how he came to California for excitement; how he had lived a _____ , and how he was trying to reform; and other details, which, from a woodpecker's viewpoint, undoubtedly must have seemed stupid, and a waste of time.

JORDAN ABEL is a Nisga'a writer from Vancouver. Abel's work has appeared in numerous periodicals, and his chapbooks have been published by Above/Ground Press and JackPine Press. Abel's first book, *The Place of Scraps* (Tal-onbooks), was a finalist for the Gerald Lampert Memorial Award and the winner of the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize.