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THE SPIRIT OF SNOWDONIA

Jerry Rawson

There is something quite magical about the Snowdonia National Park – *Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri in Welsh* – which lies in the north-west of Wales and contains some of the most spectacular mountain scenery in the United Kingdom. It is a land of moors, lakes, wooded valleys and brooding, craggy mountain ranges. Within the boundary there are also the great sweeping bays such as Tremadog and Mawddach, which means that the sea is ever present and you catch glimpses of it from many mountain tops.

Jerry Rawson's superb set of evocative photographs are an emotional response to the landscape throughout all seasons, from the golden autumnal colours of the ancient woods around Dolgellau and Bala; the vast Arctic-like plateau of the Carneddau; the rugged ice-carved cwms and soaring ridges of the Glyderau and Tryfan, seen at its best in dawn light; the majestic Snowdon (Yr Wyddfa), looking quite magnificent when cloaked in snow; and finally the western coastline with its golden beaches, estuaries and sand dunes backed by mountains, and looking splendid against the setting sun.

His photographs capture brooding skies, storms sweeping across the landscape and the low light at dawn and dusk illuminating the countryside in a golden glow. Jerry's images also show the secretive corners of Snowdonia, with its waterfalls, streams, woodlands and frozen grasses, which all contribute to the moods which make Snowdonia such a unique and wonderful place.



Jerry Rawson has been walking and climbing in Snowdonia for more than four decades, and although he now lives in the Peak District, he still has a strong affinity for North Wales. His photographic work has featured in numerous magazines and books, including his recently published *Discovering the Moors and Dales of the Peak District* and *Peak District Moods* for Halsgrove. He is a committee member of the Outdoor Writers' Guild.

Jerry recently took early retirement from lecturing at the University of Derby College, Buxton, to give him more time for his passion for landscape photography, writing and outdoor activities.



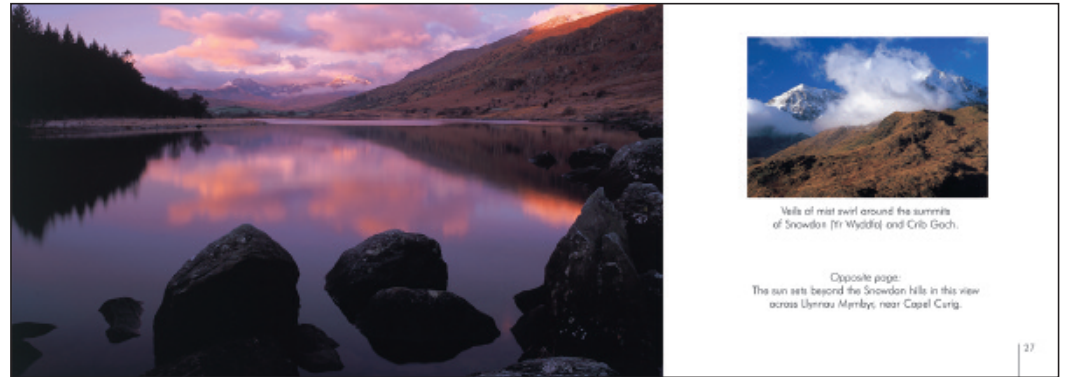
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Vibrant purple heather adds colour to this summer scene of a stream rushing down the slopes from Llyn Idwal.



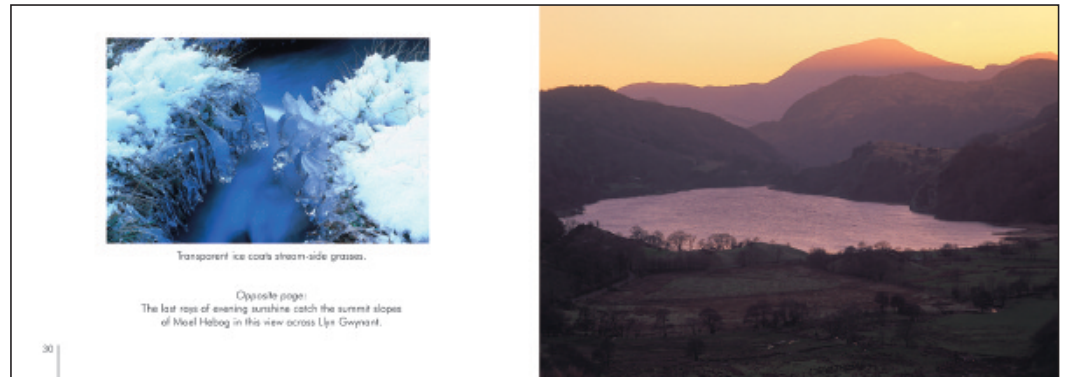
Two fishermens' boats beside Llyn y Dywarchen near Rhyd-Ddu. Snowdon and its western cwms dominate the skyline ahead.



Wells of mist swirl around the summits of Snowdon (in Wyddfa) and Crib Goch.

Opposite page:
The sun sets beyond the Snowdon hills in this view across Llynrau Mynydd, near Capel Curig.

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Transparent ice coats stream-side grasses.

Opposite page:
The last rays of evening sunshine catch the summit slopes of Moel Hebog in this view across Llyn Gwynant.

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Some examples of double page spreads.

Right: The rocks at the top of Y Gribin, a ridge on Glyder Fach, lead the eye across Llyn Idwal to Y Garn backed by Foel-goch.

Far right: Slate fences line up like tombstones at the disused Rhosydd slate quarry.



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