

DARTMOOR A Winter's Tale

Adrian Oakes

Dartmoor, in the popular imagination, is a landscape of mist, bleak moorland and, in winter, deep snow. Beneath granite tors, rising starkly from snowy slopes, solitary farms show flickering candlelight from frosted windows. While climate change brings much less snow to the high moor these days, the picture painted above is still evident when winter's hand does descend on the moor; and in this book Adrian Oakes set out to capture the essence of Dartmoor during this time of year.

As luck would have it, while photographs were being taken for this book, Dartmoor experienced one of the most severe winters for more than three decades. Early in February several feet of snow fell in a matter of hours, blanketing the moor, filling the deep lanes, and effectively cutting off communities and farms from the outside world. With falling trees bringing down powerlines, once again many homes were returned to a world of candlelight amid the eerie silence of a snowbound landscape.

The following days dawned clear and bright bringing perfect conditions for winter photographs, though getting them required considerable effort on the photographer's part. Enjoy these wonderful pictures of the moorland in winter; a superb evocation of the season that many would say is Dartmoor's best.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Adrian Oakes is a landscape and contemporary photographer based in Devon. He has kindled a great love and respect for Dartmoor over the last twenty years and more recently has focused on photographing its diverse landscapes and rich history. His many clients include The Dartmoor National Park Authority and National Trust. Adrian specialises in images of Dartmoor and East Devon and has had photographs published in a number of media including the *Dartmoor Magazine*, *Dartmoor News*, various brochures, and his first book *Perfect Dartmoor* was published by Halsgrove in 2008.

A Boot Up Ten Dartmoor Tors

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The Spirit of Dartmoor

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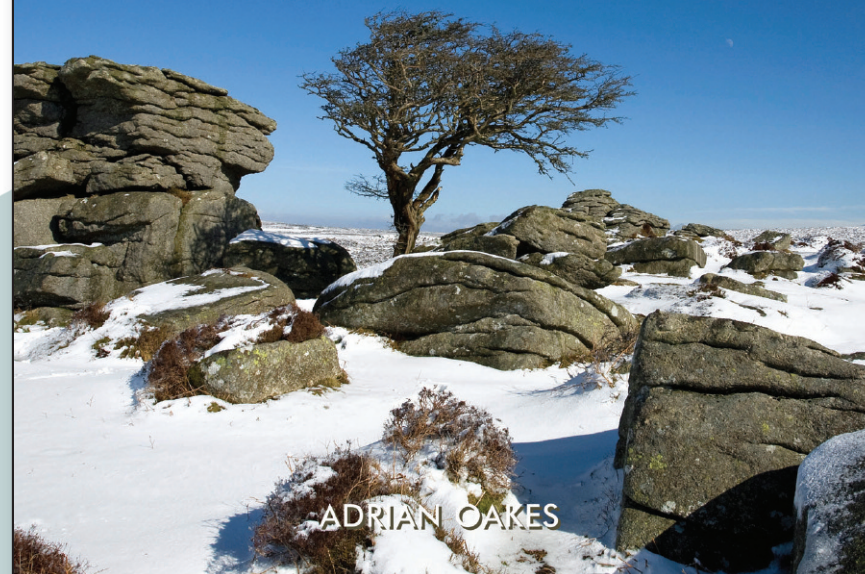
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DARTMOOR – A WINTER’S TALE



Wonderful quality of light can be enjoyed in winter, as with this view over Haytor vale.



Bennetts Cross decorated with a Christmas wreath. This is one of Dartmoor’s best known and most accessible stone crosses and is thought to be at least 300 years old.



Light on the rocks at Kes Tor. There is a very short space of time as the sun just breaks the horizon when you get a magical light for just a couple of minutes. You have to leave home very early and be there ready and waiting.



Widcombe-in-the-Moor.



Above:
A cold winter day at Ger Tor above Tony Cleve.



Right:
From Honeybag Tor this sunrise initially started grey and overcast. Then, with amazing luck, the sun broke through and illuminated Haytor on the horizon.



A fantastic morning sky casts a shadow behind Rippon Tor and illuminates the landscape. To have snow and the sun together is truly wonderful.

Example of a double-page spread.