THE PEAK DISTRICT: A WINTER'S TALE

Robert Falconer

The Peak District National Park is an area of outstanding natural beauty. The High Peak in particular is a very dramatic and wild place at any time of year, but it is in winter when these qualities can be seen to full effect. It is not uncommon for snow to fall while the golden leaves of autumn are still on the trees or for spring flowers to be given a shock by late frost or a fall of snow. But officially winter starts just a few days before Christmas when many people are dreaming of a white Christmas: a covering of snow amongst Christmas lights and decorated trees can create a quite magical scene.

Winter can bring hard weather for the farmer and his hill flocks, and the season can be harsh. For others, the fun of sledging on sunny slopes is part of the joy of winter. Photographer Robert Falconer captures not only the beautiful crystal-clear days with cold blue skies, but also the atmospheric mists and lowering clouds. He does not just portray the bleakness of winter and the wild remote landscapes to be found in the Peak, but also shows the villages and people in the Park. The Peak District is not just a nature reserve but also a place where people live, work and play: from the farmer crossing the landscape in his tractor to people enjoying a winter walk to children tobogganing on the snow-clad hills.

Through 140 stunning and evocative images Robert Falconer weaves a supremely colourful tale of the Peak in winter:

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Robert Falconer first picked up an SLR camera at the age of 12 to capture on film steam trains on days out with his father. He soon developed a love of photography and it was not long before he started to aim his camera at landscapes as well as steam locomotives. After leaving school he went on to study photography for 4 years, achieving a National Diploma at Norton College, Sheffield and a Higher National Diploma at the Blackpool and Fylde College. Since then Robert has had pictures published in numerous magazines, calendars and on cards. He now has a collection of over 20,000 images of many places and subjects but it is images of the Peak District which dominate.

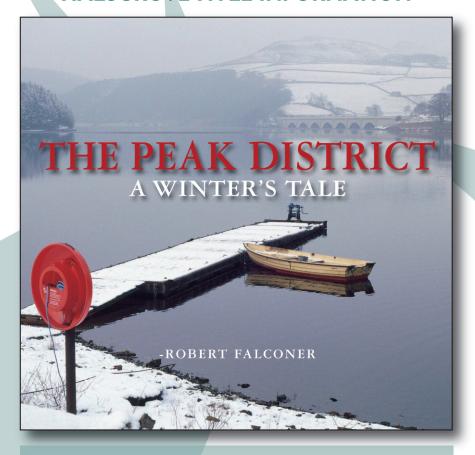
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The low late-afternoon sun shines through the icecoated landscape making the trees and the fence look like they are glowing.



The impressive church in Youlgrave stands out against the winter landscape.



Overstones Farm is perched high above the Hope Valley at the eastern end of Stanage Edge, next to a patchwork of fields belonging to the farm.





A half-buried millstone on top of Curbar Edge catches the low morning light.



The snowy hills around Ladybower Reservoir are perfectly reflected in the water.

Example of a double-page spread.