

A comforting read

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One of my reads of late is a book by Graham Robb, *The Discovery of Middle Earth: Mapping the Lost World of the Celts*. My daughter gifted it to me and one thing I've learned about my daughters is that they're usually spot on in their book recommendations. This one was no exception.

As I've mentioned before, I go back and forth between fiction and non- and this foray into the sort of middle ground between has been a real joy. Robb winds his way through legends, mythology and truths in equal measure, reconstructing for the reader much of the history of both what we know and what we've imagined about the meaning of what we knew.

Robb teaches without lecturing and entices without sniggering and every page is a wonderful admixture of revelation and comforting familiarity. And there are basically two activities that can always calm me down and bring me back to center – shaping wood and reading a good book.

I love that this guy spent years and no small amount of peering and head scratching to unearth (pun intended) and collate and analyze all the masses of research - perusing ancient tomes, poring over maps and assorted apocrypha, collecting and adjudicating multiple versions of stories just so he could provide me with reading pleasure and a touch of education.

Thank you, Mr. Robb!