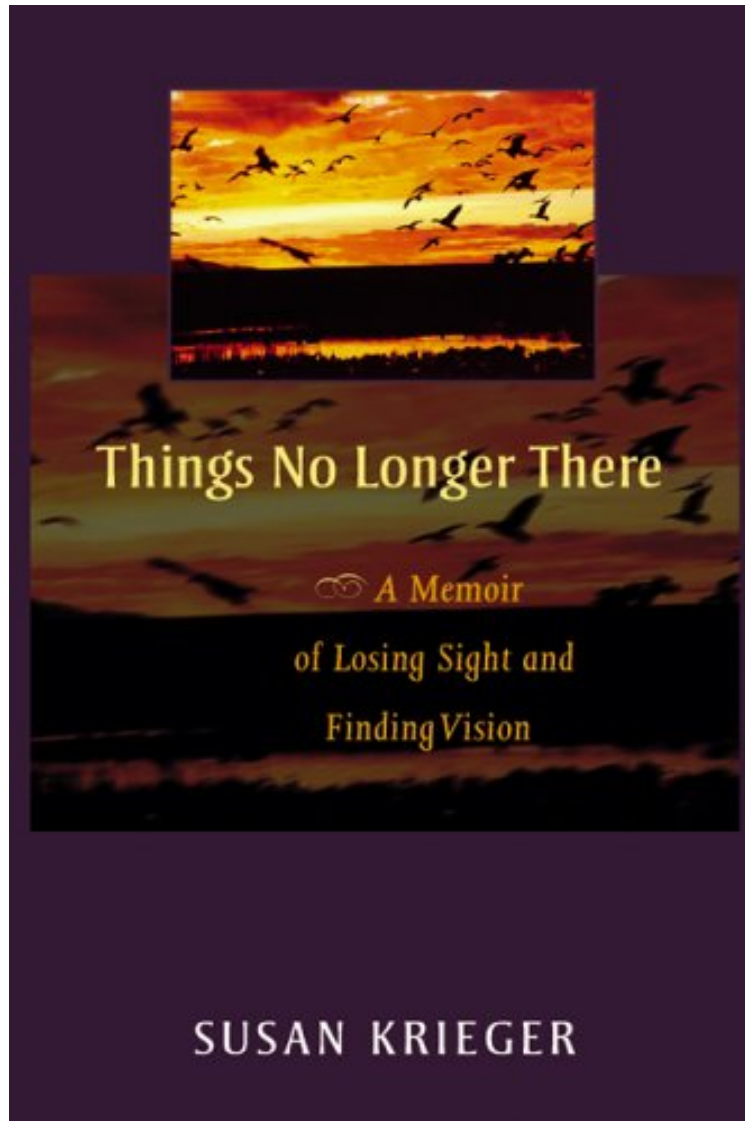


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Things No Longer There: A Memoir of Losing Sight and Finding Vision

Susan Krieger

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Things No Longer There is a lovingly crafted collection of personal stories about the author's struggle toward enlightenment while losing her eyesight. It is also, more broadly, about invisible landscapes places of the heart that linger long after they have disappeared from the world outside. In these ten brief tales and one novella-length intimate drama, Susan Krieger takes us on a series of adventures in vision, a journey both inward and to various parts of the country. We travel with her as she goes birdwatching before sunrise in the New Mexico desert, learns to walk with a white cane, revisits an old love, returns to a summer camp of her youth, and reflects on the nature of blindness and sight. Krieger's touching memoir explores the ways that outer landscapes may change and sight may be lost, but inner visions persist, giving meaning, jarring the senses with a very different picture than what appears before the eyes. This book will reward both the general reader and those interested in disability studies, feminist ethnography, and lesbian studies.

From Booklist Even before Krieger began losing her vision to a rare condition known as birdshot retinopathy, she had become fascinated by the idea that nothing remains as we recall it. When revisiting places long remembered, everyone, she says, sees that those places look vastly different. Trees have grown, burned, or been cut down. People are older. Structures have been built, remodeled, or demolished. Birds that once flocked to a place have flown to new, more hospitable locales. She began compiling written snapshots, word pictures that captured exactly how things appeared to her at selected moments in time. Her verbal imagery borders on the poetic as she recollects, among other things, attending her childhood summer camp, saving a neighborhood tree, and witnessing the aftermath of a forest fire. That she is lesbian is more than an overriding leitmotif in her reminiscences, which incorporate a novella-length memoir about a special relationship. Her sexual identity becomes a presence, as fleshed-out as those other presences, the national park, the Pacific seashore, and the New Mexico desert. Donna Chavez Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Things No Longer There evokes complex relationships between presence and absence; seeing, remembering, imagining, and desiring; perception and inspiration; and the lingering of the past in the present." Barrie Thorne, University of California, Berkeley "Susan Krieger's book illustrates in a personal, reflective, and emotional way how the gradual erosion of interpersonal relationships and familiar environments requires great effort to maintain a sense of inner reality and balance. This book is beautifully written, with vivid, compelling images that stayed with me." Esther Rothblum, University of Vermont From the Author Imprint: Terrace Books