

worth my time, and all praised *Dream State: Eight Generations of Swamp Lawyers, Conquistadors, Confederate Daughters, Banana Republicans, and Other Florida Wildlife*:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. ... mix of memoir and state history may be the best book written about Florida
By John Moran
This mix of memoir and state history may be the best book written about Florida. Refreshingly, it goes deeper than the twentieth century and gives North Florida fair attention. Diane Roberts, a well-known public commentator, must be among the funniest people in the state, and the book lets this humor shine--I laughed hysterically throughout--in the tragicomic tone of classic Florida journalism. Below the surface is a deserved rage against political corruption and reckless environmental degradation.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Highly entertaining and informative
By jerri stewart
Dream State is a laugh out loud funny account of Florida Panhandle politics and southern comfort culture. Anyone with an interest in Florida history, the evolution of politics in America, or the family ties that bind us all to our prides and our prejudices should read this book.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very interesting family history.
By Retiree in Bell Buckle TN
Found out things about my maternal ancestors that I didn't know. Will recommend to my children. Very good read. Glad I purchased and read it

Part family memoir, part political commentary, part apologia, *Dream State* tells the grand and sometimes crazy story of Florida through the eyes of one of its native daughters. Acclaimed journalist and NPR commentator Diane Roberts has many family secrets to tell. Roberts's ancestors helped settle Florida, kill off its pesky Indians, enslave some of its inhabitants, clear its forests, lay its train tracks, and pave its roads, all the time weaving themselves into the very fabric of the state.

From *Publishers Weekly*
With hurricane-force prose, journalist and Florida native Roberts hits the land of orange groves, theme parks and mobile homes with a torrential outpouring of love and hate, affection and disgust. Weaving her own family history into that of the state she's related somehow or other to many of Florida's pioneering families she chronicles the greed, political corruption and deceit that turned the swamps of the Sunshine State into a haven for retirees, wealthy or otherwise. She provides colorful sketches of the denizens of Florida, from the land-grabbing railroad tycoon Henry Flagler Jr., who turned South Florida into a playground for the rich and famous, to Gov. Claude Kirk, who tried to make the lowly mullet the state fish. Roberts reminds us that, despite Disney's glitter, Florida's backwoods and side roads reveal its true character as a Southern state still marked by racism and Confederate pride. In hilarious and touching sketches, Roberts nostalgically carries readers back to pre-Disney Florida while admitting that even then the state played by different rules than the rest of the country. If there was ever any doubt about the true nature of the Sunshine State where "what people think happened is always more important than what really happened" Roberts puts it to rest in this splendid unofficial history. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.
From *Booklist*
A history of Florida written by a woman whose Floridian roots stretch back to the colonial days? Is such a thing possible? As Roberts points out, Florida prides itself on being a place without a past, a state built on cartoon mice and plastic flamingos. But Florida--European and Indian, southern and Yankee, FSU and UF--is home to many of the great conflicts in American history. From Ponce de Leon to the Seminole wars to the hanging chads of the 2000 election, Roberts tells the story of Florida through her relatives and ancestors. It would seem she is kin to most every prominent figure in northern Florida (Floridians will recognize several of the surnames in her family tree as counties), and it is through them that we come to know the state. Roberts' rough-edged colloquial style matches her subject matter nicely but contains frequent ramblings about Andrew Jackson, Jeb Bush, and her cousin the Tallahassee lawyer. But it's a fun ride, nonetheless, and proof positive that despite its pretenses, Florida does have a history--and a wild one. John Green
Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved ... the latest entry in the Florida-sure-is-a-weird-and-wacky-place genre...delves into her family's odd and estimable Florida history, while dispensing free-wheeling political commentary. -- Orlando Magazine...Roberts' ancestors helped settle Florida...all the time weaving themselves into the very fabric of this dangling chad of a state... -- The Florida Archivist...colorful... -- Gainesville Sun
With a talent for setting great scenes, Roberts lays out the sweeping history through eight generations... -- Herald (Broward County Edition)