



Limited Sight Distance: Essays for Airwaves

Robert Root

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“I think these essays are better than Andy Rooney’s,” an editor told Bob Root, after reviewing Root’s collection of radio essays, “and I’d love to publish them once you’re as famous as Andy Rooney.” Several other editors said much the same thing, though the comparison wasn’t always to Andy Rooney and in some cases Root was only judged to be “as good as” some well-established personality. Though his series for the local portion of NPR’s Morning Edition ran for eight years and was heard throughout central and northern Michigan, Root suspected that he wasn’t going to become as famous as Andy Rooney. Once he stopped essaying for the radio to write and edit a number of other books, the more than two-hundred-and-fifty radio scripts were relegated to a file box that was scarcely opened twice in the ensuing twenty-five years. In that interval Bob Root continued to teach composition and literature courses at Central Michigan University and introduced new courses in creative nonfiction into its master’s program in composition and communication. After taking early retirement he taught for the Lighthouse Writers Workshop in Denver and the Loft Literary Center in Minneapolis and currently teaches nonfiction in the low-residency MFA Program in Creative Writing at Ashland University. He presented at national, international, and regional conferences on composition and creative nonfiction, was invited to speak at writing programs and workshops, and published widely in literary and educational journals. He also edited historical manuscripts, served as an artist-in-residence at three national parks, and published seventeen books. While writing his recent memoir, *Happenstance*, he happened again upon his radio essays, some of which were important for the new book. He had also been preparing his grandmother’s 1937 psychology column, *How to Develop Your Personality*, for e-book and print-on-demand publication, and as he reviewed the radio essays, he realized that he didn’t have to wait to be as famous as Andy Rooney anymore—he could bring the collection out into the world for people who enjoyed the series to encounter again and for anyone else to discover. “This is Bob Root, thinking out loud” was the signature close of each broadcast essay, and “Thinking Out Loud” became the working title of the series. *Limited Sight Distance: Essays for Airwaves* collects fifty of the best “Thinking Out Loud” essays, as well as three additional essays written after the series ended, including the longer title essay. In that essay he writes, “For a long time now Limited Sight Distance has similarly seemed to me to be a significant slogan for an essayist. . . . Don’t expect to see very far, it will warn me; don’t assume unobstructed vision. . . . As an essayist I have a simple charge—to look carefully at whatever falls within my field of vision and to reflect thoroughly, thoughtfully, on whatever I see.” In these essays he muses on the old house in which he lives, the neighborhood around it, memories of growing up in Western New York, the seasons he observes, the sensations of traveling, encounters with the cosmos, and interludes in the natural world. In these pages readers will meet an amiable sojourner, observing what he finds around him, sharing his reflections, thinking out loud.

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Estela Gillard:

Spent a free time to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their particular friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you need to something different to fill your current free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book can be option to fill your free of charge time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the book untitled Limited Sight Distance: Essays for Airwaves can be very good book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

Mark Smith:

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them household or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read any book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent the whole day to reading a guide. The book Limited Sight Distance: Essays for Airwaves it is very good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book provides high quality.

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