

*The Opal Desert*



THE OPAL  
DESERT

*Explorations of Fantasy  
and Reality in the  
American Southwest*

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PETER WILD



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*A better term than "opal" could scarcely be found for describing in a word the color of the desert. . . .*

— J. SMEATON CHASE

*No other precious stone ever attracted me—diamond, ruby, emerald, sapphire. Any of them can be counterfeited so well that only the highest expert can tell the difference. But no one ever counterfeited a good opal—perhaps it is safe to say no one ever will. Its color and light are not dependent on the faceting but are its intrinsic soul. Keith shared my passion for opals; and when I would come up with a new one he would kneel in his bay window in the sunlight to turn it over and over and tears would often come down his face. Frequently he would say, "I have to have this—take any picture you want."*

— CHARLES F. LUMMIS

