



Wild Chorus: Finding Harmony with Whales, Wolves, and Other Animals

Brenda Peterson

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Brenda Peterson's passionate essay collection *Wild Chorus* is "a celebration of the wonder and wisdom of other animals."

Peterson, whose childhood as a forest ranger's daughter was peripatetic, is an accomplished, assured storyteller when it comes to the behavior and communication of wild animals. She spent years observing marine mammals and wolves in particular. Here, she shares affecting tales of injured and dying animals and exalting encounters with birds, wolves, and whales that evoke emotions and connection. Throughout, the book calls for a less destructive, more spiritual relationship between species.

Peterson describes how animals are attuned to their natural environments and the ways that they adapt to ever more rapid changes to their habitats and climate. She also layers in recent biological findings about animals' extraordinary sensory powers and their affection for each other—even other species. Interesting facts, such as that only three mammals go through menopause, are used to further build her absorbing portraits of different species.

The essay collection *Wild Chorus* is thought-provoking in its analyses of animal intelligence and is replete with intriguing speculations about how animals can guide human beings.

RACHEL JAGARESKI (March / April 2024)

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