

Review: The Rediscovery of the Wild
Peter H. Kahn & Patricia H. Hasbach

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Kahn Jr., Peter H., and Hasbach, Patricia H. *The Rediscovery of the Wild*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2013. 250pp. ISBN 9780262518338. US \$25.00, paperback.

The Rediscovery of the Wild, edited by Peter H. Kahn Jr. and Patricia H. Hasbach, is a cogent and efficaciously curated collection of essays that engages the conversation on wild nature and humans with accessible depth. In the introduction, Kahn and Hasbach state that “one of the challenges and opportunities for our age is to describe, name, and bring forward wild nature [...]” (p. xii). Contributors, draw from backgrounds in a variety of academic disciplines including ecology, conservation biology, child psychology, philosophy, anthropology and others, to present grounded research, personal accounts, and thoughtful inquiry that begin to engage these challenges and opportunities. The essays consider one or more of five overarching themes: *Is the Wild Everywhere?*, *Does Technology Diminish the Experience of the Wild?*, *Self-regulation as a Defining Characteristic of Wildness*, *The Destruction of the Wild*, and *A Nature Language of the Wild*.

With grounded and thoughtful insight, contributors examine these concepts and themes through the lens of their discipline. Some authors achieve this by illustrating and reflecting on their personal experiences in the wild and engaging with wild nature: researching wolves in the American West, encounters with leopards in the Kalahari Desert, and studying wild birds in the forests of Panama. Other essays draw from research that explores and questions human fear of wildness, children’s interactions with wildlife, parallels in the ways that humans and captive wildlife respond to trauma, and cultural relationships with and definitions of wilderness and the wild. From these diverse vantage points, the reader is challenged to think beyond the importance of domestic nature in human lives and consider the implications of our embeddedness in the “unfolding, dynamic, and constant presence of wild nature” (p. xiii). The work convincingly and articulately advocates for knowledge, understanding, and engagement with wild nature and nature literacy. In the final chapter, the editors conclude with the proposal that for humans to truly flourish, wildness needs to be “rediscovered, re-engaged, developed, and lived” (p. 207).

This authoritative text has the potential to support diverse and interdisciplinary paths of academic inquiry, particularly in the fields of psychology and environmental studies. The accessible language and elements of storytelling throughout make it both engaging and informative for the casual reader. This collection lays a solid foundation for its subject matter while maintaining the potential to invigorate future research, exploration, and conversation on the topic of humans and the wild.

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