

Emergency

Original title:

Publisher: Fitzcarraldo Editions, 2022

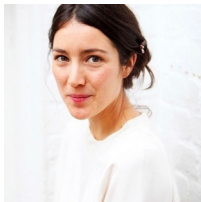
Genre: Novel

Pages: 224 pages

Awards

Winner of the 2023 RSL Encore

Award



Daisy Hildyard

Emergency

Emergency is a novel about the dissolving boundaries between all life on earth. Stuck at home alone under lockdown, a woman recounts her 1990s childhood in rural Yorkshire. She watches a kestrel hunting, helps a farmer with a renegade bull, and plays out with her best friend, Clare. Around her in the village her neighbours are arguing, keeping secrets, caring for one another, trying to hold down jobs. In the woods and quarry there are foxcubs fighting, plants competing for space, ageing machines, and a three-legged deer who likes cake. These local phenomena interconnect and spread out from China to Nicaragua as pesticides circulate, money flows around the planet, and bodies feel the force of distant power. A story of remote violence and a work of praise for a persistently lively world, brilliantly written, surprising, evocative and unsettling, Daisy Hildyard's Emergency reinvents the pastoral novel for the climate change era.

Read more: <https://fitzcarraldoeditions.com/books/emergency/>

'Hildyard doesn't offer the narratives of therapy, social criticism or self-development to be found in other English pastoralists (Helen Macdonald, Ronald Blythe or Adrian Bell). Her style is more reminiscent of such contemporary poets as Kathleen Jamie and Alice Oswald, with their quiet and attentive watchfulness to a non-human reality they only half-understand. Her prose calls for, and frequently earns, the same respectful attentiveness from its readers.'

Nikhil Krishnan, Telegraph

'This book succeeds because of the chilly and beautifully sustained voice of its narrator, the precise embroidery of its sentences and paragraphs, its observations of the natural world and insistence that there is no distinction between humans and environments.'

Sarah Moss, Guardian

Daisy Hildyard

Daisy Hildyard's first novel, *Hunters in the Snow*, received the Somerset Maugham Award and a '5 under 35' honorarium at the USA National Book Awards. Her essay *The Second Body*, a brilliantly lucid account of the dissolving boundaries between all life on earth, was published by Fitzcarraldo Editions in 2017. Her novel *Emergency* won the RSL Encore Award in 2023. She lives with her family in North Yorkshire, where she was born.