



Surrender

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Full English manuscript



Joanna Pocock

Surrender

Blending memoir with reportage, criticism with nature writing, *Surrender* is a narrative non-fiction work on the changing landscape of the American West, inspired by a two-year stay in Montana. At a time of personal crisis, after losing her parents and beginning menopause, Joanna Pocock becomes fascinated with radical environmental movements. She witnesses the annual tribal bison hunt near Yellowstone Park, where she meets a scavenger community honing ancestral skills. She joins Finisia Medrano, a transsexual rewilder, to learn about life on the Hoop. She attends the Ecosex Convergence, an annual gathering of people who place their relationship with the earth above everything else. With *Surrender*, the winner of the 2018 Fitzcarraldo Editions Essay Prize, Joanna Pocock offers a provocative and profound examination of life in an era of increasing climatic disruption.

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

'Pocock's prose is understated and spare, and, like a cave painting, does perfect justice to her subject. It doesn't debase the living world by trying to overword it. It is just a sketch, and in its gentleness touches it perfectly ... This is nature writing that we need: standing in contrast to writing that forces the human into the picture as observer, or tries hard to pin the thing down exactly, with alienating expertise or florid description.... [Pocock's] is a perspective not of objectivity or voyeurism, but of participation in the web of life and in the land and communities as she writes them.'

Abi Andrews, Irish Times

'This is a bewitching and deeply affecting book. Pocock's elegant interweaving of the intimate and the expansive, the personal and the universal, culminates in a work that forces us to consider our own place in, and impact upon, a world that could itself have more past than future.'

Tom Smalley, Spectator

Joanna Pocock

Joanna Pocock is an Irish-Canadian writer living in London. Her writing has notably appeared in the Los Angeles Times, the Nation and she is a contributor to the Dark Mountain project. She won the 2018 Fitzcarraldo Editions Essay Prize for *Surrender* and in 2021 she was awarded the Arts Foundation's Environmental Writing Fellowship.