

# **THE WILD GARDEN**

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**A Journey of Loss and Renewal**

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# The Wild Garden

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## Introduction

The Wild Garden is not just another book about trees and forests and the people who inhabit the north woods. It is, instead, a journey through a beat up landscape and a humbled author's life.

It opens gently, almost seductively, in a protected garden of childhood. From there it moves outward in widening spirals to the wilder gardens of the north. It introduces the philosophical work of Georg Hegel and the concepts of ecology as it recalls personal stories of loss and renewal.

Put simply, The Wild Garden is a landscape filled with disturbance. Disturbance that occurs in family. Disturbance that occurs in the forest. Disturbance ecology, that challenges and changes the trajectory of life around us. These pages, while they read easily and caress with language, will also challenge many of your assumptions and jar your conscience. Be prepared for another side to nature's ways, one that goes less noticed but is equal to her romance. Be prepared for catalysts of loss and decay: for windstorms, fires, and ice. For these are not the romantic forests of Henry David Thoreau, nor the pristine woodlands of pre-history.

In these times of economic and political upheaval, when change and uncertainty abound, it may be timely to observe the real cycles of the forest and consider the lessons they offer. This honest appraisal may provide a first step toward synthesis and recovery. For out of the ruins of disturbance, renewal and restoration are born - both at home and in the woods.

I invite you to join me in this wild garden, where a memorable journey awaits.