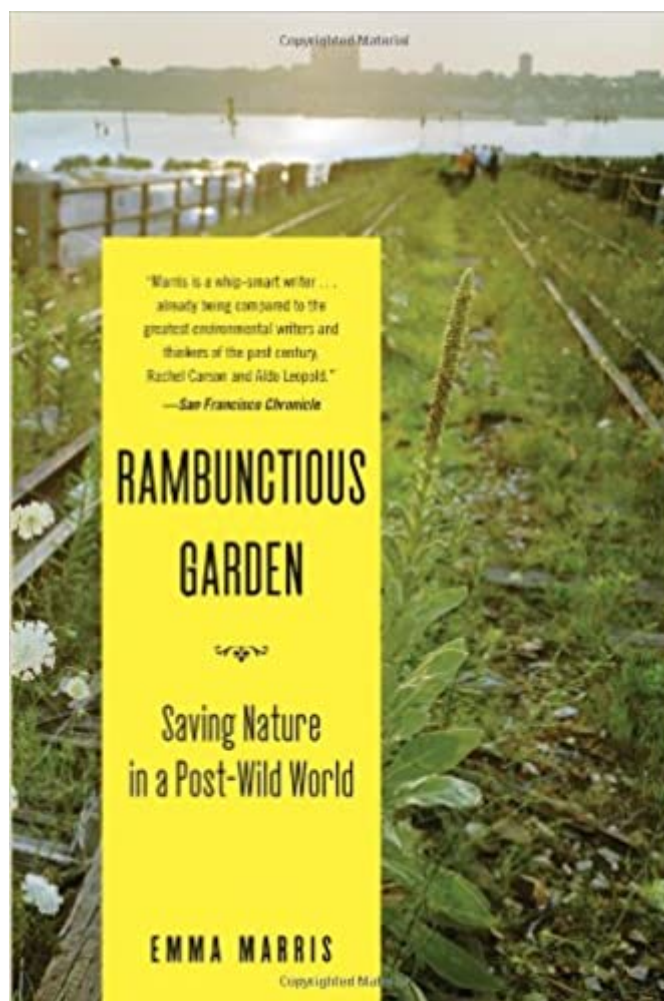


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# The Rambunctious Garden: Saving Nature In A Post-Wild World



## Synopsis

A paradigm shift is roiling the environmental world. For decades people have unquestioningly accepted the idea that our goal is to preserve nature in its pristine, pre-human state. But many scientists have come to see this as an outdated dream that thwarts bold new plans to save the environment and prevents us from having a fuller relationship with nature. Humans have changed the landscapes they inhabit since prehistory, and climate change means even the remotest places now bear the fingerprints of humanity. Emma Marris argues convincingly that it is time to look forward and create the "rambunctious garden," a hybrid of wild nature and human management. In this optimistic book, readers meet leading scientists and environmentalists and visit imaginary Edens, designer ecosystems, and Pleistocene parks. Marris describes innovative conservation approaches, including rewilding, assisted migration, and the embrace of so-called novel ecosystems. *Rambunctious Garden* is short on gloom and long on interesting theories and fascinating narratives, all of which bring home the idea that we must give up our romantic notions of pristine wilderness and replace them with the concept of a global, half-wild rambunctious garden planet, tended by us.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Marris argues that the conservation and appreciation of nature can take place at far less exotic locations, such as backyards, city parks, farms, and even parking lots....This gracefully written and well-argued book deserves a wide readership." - "Reason"" "Covering the world of ecology and

conservation from the ancient forests of Poland to the urban waterways of Seattle, Washington, Marris calls for a new kind of conservation that eschews the defensive stance of the past and embraces the challenges of acknowledging, understanding, protecting, and restoring the nature of the present and the future. This is a thought-provoking book that should be widely read and more widely discussed." -Kent H. Redford, director, Wildlife Conservation Society "In "Rambunctious Garden," Emma Marris weeds through a jungle of ecological dogma, yanking and hacking at our most cherished perceptions of Nature's purity. Marris asks us to look beyond the black-and-white world of pest and weed versus nat"Marris argues that the conservation and appreciation of nature can take place at far less exotic locations, such as backyards, city parks, farms, and even parking lots....This gracefully written and well-argued book deserves a wide readership." - "Reason""[Marris] doesn't just dwell in the imperfections of the past. She also offers forward-looking innovations."" -Mother Jones" "Covering the world of ecology and conservation from the ancient forests of Poland to the urban waterways of Seattle, Washington, Marris calls for a new kind of conservation that eschews the defensive stance of the past and embraces the challenges of acknowledging, understanding, protecting, and restoring the nature of the present and the future. This is a thought-provoking book that should be widely read and more widely discussed." -Kent H. Redford, director, Wildlife Conservation Society "In "Rambunctious Garden," Emma Marris weeds through a jungle of ecological dogma, yanking and hacking at our most"Ms Marris's book is an insightful analysis of the thinking that informs nature conservation." - "Economist""Marris argues that the conservation and appreciation of nature can take place at far less exotic locations, such as backyards, city parks, farms, and even parking lots....This gracefully written and well-argued book deserves a wide readership." - "Reason""[Marris] doesn't just dwell in the imperfections of the past. She also offers forward-looking innovations."" -Mother Jones" "Covering the world of ecology and conservation from the ancient forests of Poland to the urban waterways of Seattle, Washington, Marris calls for a new kind of conservation that eschews the defensive stance of the past and embraces the challenges of acknowledging, understanding, protecting, and restoring the nature of the present and the future. This is a thought-provoking book that should be widely read and more widely discussed." -Kent H. Redford, director, Wildlife Conservation Society "In"Potentially the most optimistic and controversial work about the future of nature to appear in years." - Grist.com "Marris... challenges us to revisit the definition of nature in our increasingly unnatural world." - "Nature""Ms Marris's book is an insightful analysis of the thinking that informs nature conservation." - "Economist""May be the most important book about the environment in a generation." - "Idaho Statesman""Marris argues that the conservation and appreciation of nature can take place at far

less exotic locations, such as backyards, city parks, farms, and even parking lots....This gracefully written and well-argued book deserves a wide readership." - "Reason""[Marris] doesn't just dwell in the imperfections of the past. She also offers forward-looking innovations."" -Mother Jones"" "Seamlessly intertwining lyrical travelogue with ecological science...[Marris] champions a controversial approach to conservation." - "Discover""Into her lively reporting, [Marris] wea

Emma Marris grew up in Seattle, Washington. Since 2004, she has written for the world's foremost science journal, *Nature*, on ecology, conservation Biology and other topics. Her articles have also appeared in *Wired*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, and *Conservation*. She currently lives in Columbia, Missouri, with her husband and daughter.

Emma Marris challenges us to think differently about the living things all around us. In a post-wild world, we must live with the surviving species around us and not expect life to be undisturbed. Ms. Marris does an excellent job of building a conceptual foundation for treasuring and sharing our open land and the species that survive and colonize these spaces. Will you value the variety of life in a vacant lot, ignore it, or pave it over? Marris challenges us to accept all these interactions of life as valuable. Read, and think differently.

This book is controversial, but deliberately so I think, in trying to attract attention from conservationists and more readers. The premise is that we should not only concentrate on preserving so called pristine wilderness areas, as firstly there is really no such thing in the Anthropocene where human activities have impacted every inch of the planet. Reading the negative reviews before reading the book, I started with some trepidation, but it ended up being not as bad as I thought. Yes, 'true' wildlife lovers like me who live for untrammelled protected nature reserves may balk at Marris' disparaging of the futility of trying to protect the tiny pockets of such places remaining on Earth, while welcoming change in species composition and artificial rewilding, but as the book progresses, the author softens her stance and argue for the conserving of everything and anything in addition to such conventional nature reserves as she sees value even in the most man-made urban landscapes. Like a good reporter, Marris is able to explain key concepts in ecology and the latest debates in an accessible manner, which alone already makes her slim book useful. The flip side is that she is no expert, and any conclusions drawn must be taken with a pinch of salt. What she does is open up the debate of what aspects of nature we should save, challenging our conventional ideas of what conservation is and in general making the reader think more critically on

the issue.

This book is remarkable - I would say seminal. Written by a naturalist who is a true nature lover - as opposed to an antihumanist - the book brilliantly refutes the static view of the environment that supports the dogma of today's "environmental" movement. Rather, she puts forward and scientifically supports a dynamic and creative view of nature, with new species constantly originating and moving around, thereby constantly creating new ecological combinations. In this light, we see the absurdity of arbitrarily condemning certain species as "invasive" (ALL species are invasive!) and trying to kill them off because they "don't belong" in new places. The author does accept uncritically some conventional predicates of the current environmentalist cannon (for example, she finds global warming alarming), but as one cannot expect a person to break completely from the religion that defines her crowd, the fact that she is a member makes her attack on the tribe's central ideology all the braver and more impressive. She doesn't say it, but if the full implications of her theory are understood, her creative view of nature defines its most creative species - humanity - not as the enemy of life, but as the vanguard of life. Let us go forth and create new ecologies -new natures filled with new life - here and throughout the universe. On to Mars!

Fantastic book!! The gardens of the future Ecology will be rambunctious gardens!

Good read. You probably won't agree with everything in it, but it made me think outside the box. If you like to think, it's a good book. If you like all of your beliefs reinforced, you might not like it.

A good overview of new ways to conceptualize ecology in the Anthropocene.

A must read for any conservationist. But to live within a sustainable Rambunctious Garden in the future will require clever ecologically based decisions. A point that did not come across strongly in the book. The objectives of conservation are not necessarily more diversity or bigger better as was suggested here. For this I have denied a 5th star.

I'm interested in the zone between weed and wildflower, invasive exotic and "deal with it" and this book is IT. good history of environmentalism too.

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