

# Out of the Woods

## Seeing Nature in the Everyday

Julia Corbett

“This exceptional, eclectic book is the brave future of nature writing.”

—**Richard Louv**, author of *The Nature Principle* and *Last Child in the Woods*

“An engaging, accessible, beautifully written celebration of our frayed relationship with the more-than-human world and the animals who are our kin . . . Julia Corbett explores the richness of nearby nature, reminding us that nurturing our bond with local landscapes is essential to the survival of the natural world and key to our own health and happiness.”

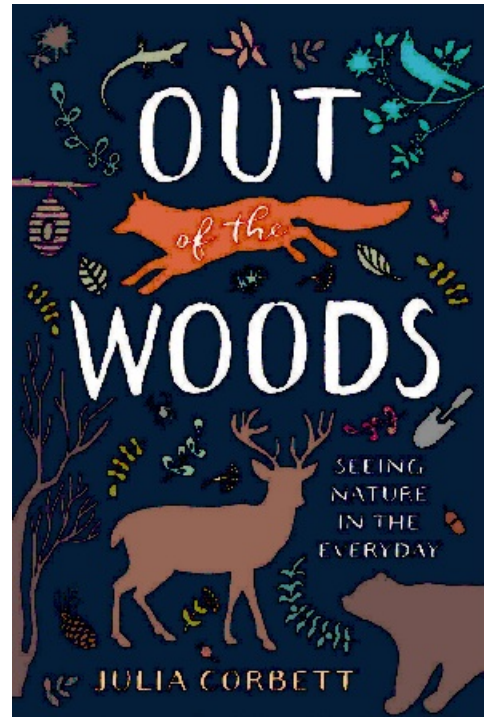
—**Michael P. Branch**, author of *Rants from the Hill* and *Raising Wild*

“*Out of the Woods* offers a nuanced and inspiring account of what it means to lead an environmentally aware life, discovering small miracles of the natural world in unexpected places but also searching for the truth behind the greenwashing, and trying to do better . . . these scintillating essays are a tonic for confronting complacency in a time of ecological crisis.”

—**James Barilla**, author of *My Backyard Jungle*

“Throughout this well-crafted, contemplative collection, Corbett writes eloquently about the environmental conundrums she faces...”

—**Foreward Reviews**



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Have you ever wondered why we perceive “nature” differently depending on where it is? Or, about society’s desire to cultivate the perfect lawn, or why we view some animals as “good” and some as “bad”? In this fresh and introspective collection of essays, Julia Corbett examines nature in our lives with all of its ironies and contradictions by seamlessly integrating personal narratives with morsels of highly digestible science and research. Each story delves into an overlooked aspect of our relationship with nature—insects, garbage, backyards, noise, open doors, animals, and language.

With a keen sense of irony and humor and an awareness of the miraculous in the mundane, Corbett recognizes the contradictions of contemporary life. She confronts the owner of a high-end market who insists on keeping his doors open in all temperatures, and takes us on a trip to a new mall with a replica of a trout stream that once flowed nearby. *Out of the Woods* leads to surprising insights into the practices and phrases we take for granted in our encounters with nature and encourages us all to consider how we might reimagine our relationship with nature in our everyday lives.

**Julia Corbett** is a professor in the Department of Communication and the Environmental Humanities Graduate Program at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. She authored one of the first texts in environmental communication, *Communicating Nature: How We Create and Understand Environmental Messages*. Her second book, *Seven Summers: A Naturalist Homesteads in the Modern West*, “enacts the insights of feminist nature criticism” in a memoir about a small cabin in a wild place in a twenty-first-century landscape under acute pressure; it was short-listed for the Reading the West Award. Her environmental nonfiction essays have been published in *Orion*, *High Country News*, and *Camas*. Before receiving her PhD at the University of Minnesota in 1994, she was a newspaper reporter, a park ranger, a naturalist, a natural resources information officer, and a deputy press secretary. She summers in the mountains of western Wyoming in her cabin.

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