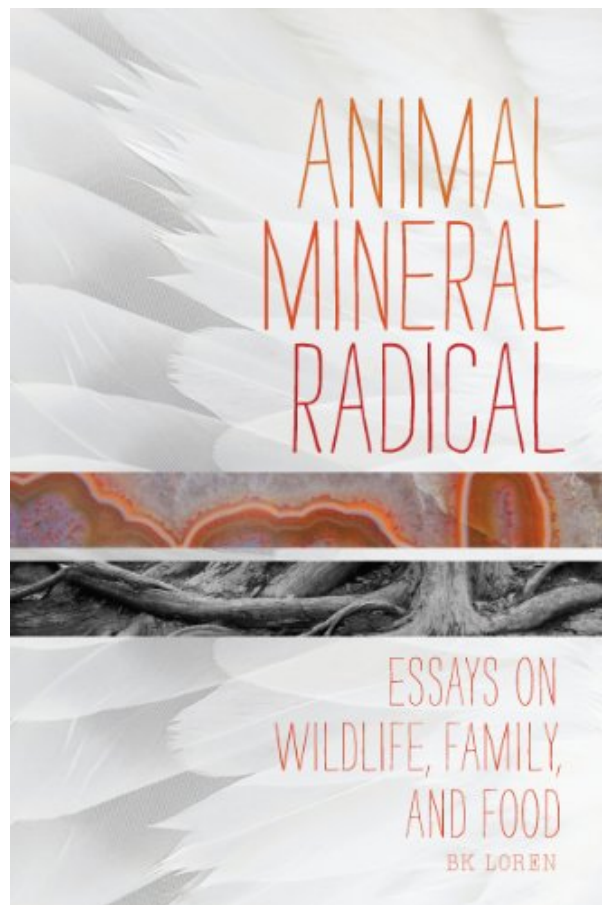
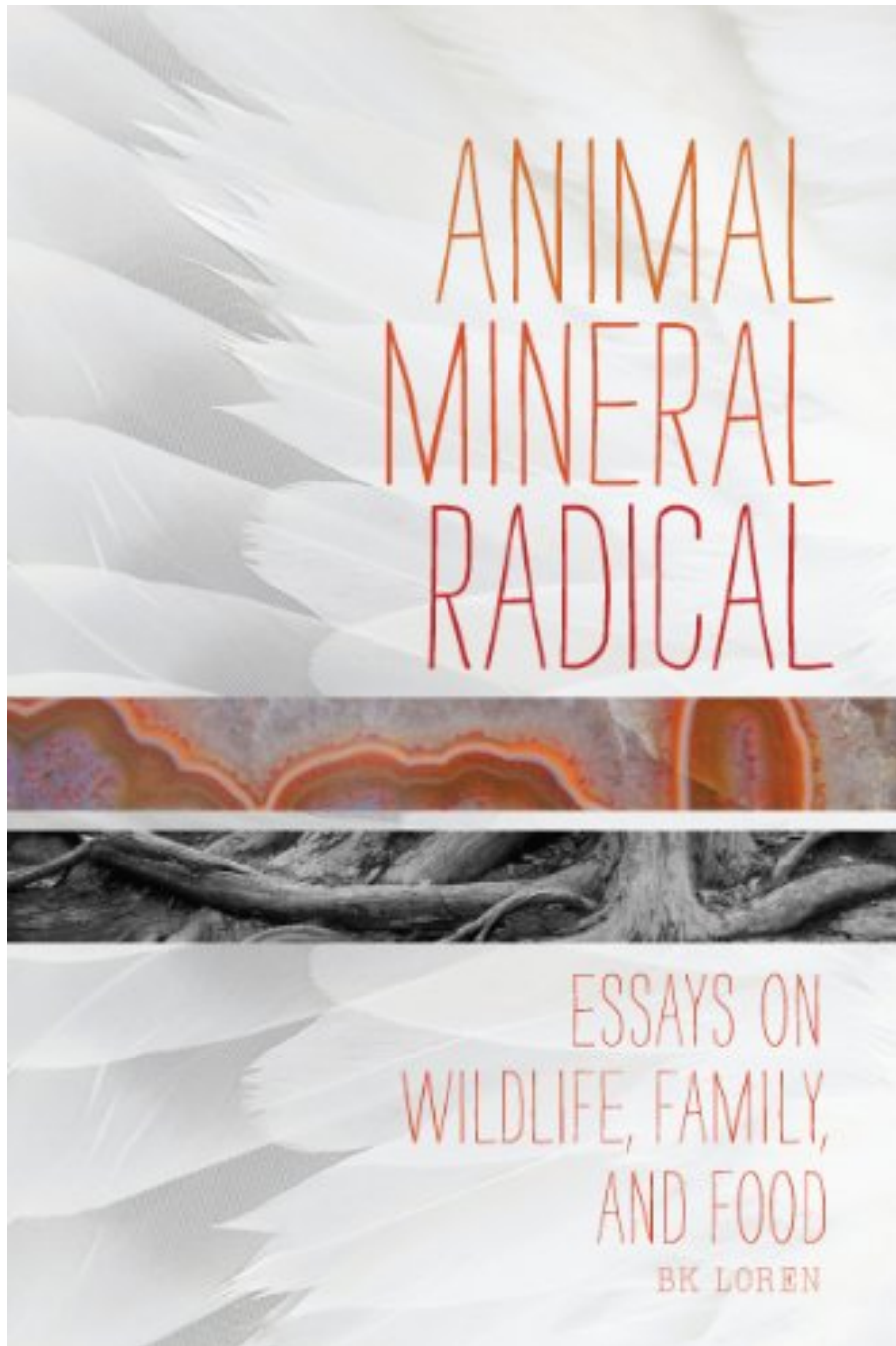


**ANIMAL, MINERAL, RADICAL: ESSAYS ON
WILDLIFE, FAMILY, AND FOOD BY BK
LOREN**



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“Radical, before it meant a person who advocates strong political reform, meant getting to the root of things, the origin. It comes from the Latin radix, radice, meaning radish, a root vegetable.”—BK Loren

These meditative essays range in subjects from a transcendental encounter with a pack of coyotes ironically juxtaposed with her neighbor’s claim that nature “has gone out of vogue,” to Loren’s mother’s slow yet all-encompassing deterioration from Parkinson’s, and the unexpected way the Loma Prieta earthquake eroded her depression by offering the author a sense of her small place in a wild and worthwhile world.

Loren has an empathetic and gentle approach to the world. In detailing the intricacies of human relationships and consciousness—fear of death and time, cooperation born of clashing viewpoints, tradition’s beauty even when destructive, a love of language, a sense of loss amid the fast-paced materialistic world—she peels back the film of popular thinking in order to expose herself to the secrets so few of us ever see.

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Beautiful book of Essays

By Maikoenigen

What a find!! So much wisdom here. Some essays were so captivating, touching -- and well crafted, such as *The Evolution of Hunger*, I read them several times. I will be on the lookout for her next book of essays.

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One of the most thoughtful, lyrical, inspiring voices essaying today.

By sll

There were so many times while reading this book that I had to put it down and say "wow." Loren's observations about the connection between the human body and the natural world are not only beautifully rendered but so thought-provoking, I found myself trying to slow my reading of the book in order to enjoy it more while also looking forward to the second read.

There are essays for everyone in this book -- Loren writes about family, community, wildlife, landscape, aging, language, and more. I highly recommend this as a read and re-read and share.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

"Place is never empty."

By Lauren Bishop-Weidner

(Note: The title of this review is from "*Of Straw Dogs and Canines: A Meditation on Place*")

The wise essays in BK Loren's collection reflect on connections with our Earth, with our selves, with our fellow creatures. Her landscape is one of compassionate co-existence within which Loren celebrates the warty beauty of our shared humanity, what Wallace Stegner called "the geography of hope." With her own characteristic grace, humor, and generosity, Loren eloquently links spirit to soil, mind to heart, created being to created being. People, places, animals, plants--we are connected, in spite of our best efforts to the contrary. In exquisitely compressed, poetic language, Loren takes on thorny topics ranging from environmentally caused diseases to incest to natural disaster to families, nudging us to embrace the wilderness (literal and metaphorical) that nourishes our shared roots: "It is the dream of a common language that harks back through history and provides a connection between us all. Here, there is no place that does not see you" (from "*The Shifting Light of Shadows*").

Walk with these essays, live with them, let the words ferment in your soul. And then share the hoppy, complex brew with your world.

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