



## A R T . E A R T H . S P I R I T

Thomas Berry writes, “It’s all a matter of a story. We are in trouble now because we do not have a good story. We are in between stories. The old story, the account of how the world came to be and how we fit in it, is no longer effective. Yet we have not learned a new story. We need a story that will educate us, a story that will heal, guide, and discipline us.” Perhaps we can shape together our new creation story of mystery and wonder, justice, relationship and sensing the deepest note in the universe, love. This feels rich with possibilities for engaging communities and offers us the capacity to transform our world.

Creating something together that we could not create alone is a natural part of our personal artistic process, and we seek to bring this into our community art. We believe it is intrinsically empowering to stir a person’s imagination with story and to create art in its many forms, together. That has been the inspiration for gathering artists, writers, theologians, and story tellers into our creative community.

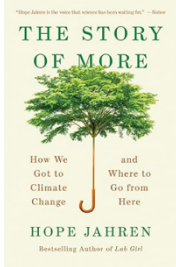


## RECOMMENDED READING LIST

Books to share from our studio. May you find sustenance for your journey

*The posture of fear that builds walls and prevents dialogue will need to give way to creativity in order to re-imagine our collective story.*

— CHUCK HOFFMAN + PEG CARLSON-HOFFMAN | GENESIS + ART

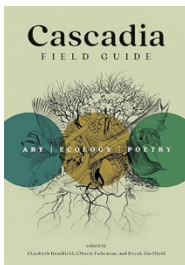


## The Story of More: How We Got to Climate Change and Where We Go from Here

by Hope Jahren

Hope Jahren is an award-winning scientist, a brilliant writer, a passionate teacher, and one of the

seven billion people with whom we share this earth. In *The Story of More*, she illuminates the link between human habits and our imperiled planet. In concise, highly readable chapters, she takes us through the science behind the key inventions—from electric power to large-scale farming to automobiles—that, even as they help us, release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere like never before. She explains the current and projected consequences of global warming—from superstorms to rising sea levels—and the actions that we all can take to fight back. At once an explainer on the mechanisms of global change and a lively, personal narrative given to us in Jahren's inimitable voice, *The Story of More* is "a superb account of the deadly struggle between humanity and what may prove the only life-bearing planet within ten light years" (E. O. Wilson).



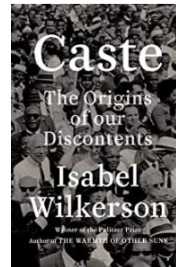
## Cascadia Field Guide: Art, Ecology, Poetry

by Marie Fuhrman, Elizabeth Bradfield, Derek Sheffield

Cascadia stretches from Southeast Alaska to Northern California and from the Pacific

Ocean to the Continental Divide. *Cascadia Field Guide: Art, Ecology, Poetry* blends art and science to celebrate this diverse yet interconnected region through natural and cultural histories, poetry, and illustrations. Organized into 13 bioregions, the guide includes entries for everything from cryptobiotic soil and the western thatching ant to the giant Pacific octopus and Sitka spruce, as well as the likes of common raven, hoary marmot, Idaho giant

salamander, snowberry, and 120 more! Both well-established and new writers are included, representing a diverse spectrum of voices, with poems that range from comic to serious, colloquial to scientific, urban to off-the-grid, narrative to postmodern. Likewise, the artists span styles and mediums, using classic natural history drawing, form line design, graffiti, sketch, and more. All writers and artists have deep ties to the region.

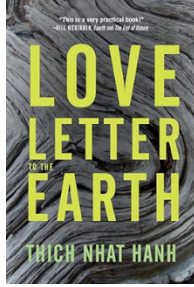


## Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents

by Isabel Wilkerson

Beyond race, class, or other factors, there is a powerful caste system that influences people's lives and behavior and the nation's

fate. Linking the caste systems of America, India, and Nazi Germany, Wilkerson explores eight pillars that underlie caste systems across civilizations, including divine will, bloodlines, stigma, and more. Using riveting stories about people—including Martin Luther King, Jr., baseball's Satchel Paige, a single father and his toddler son, Wilkerson herself, and many others—she shows the ways that the insidious undertow of caste is experienced every day. She documents how the Nazis studied the racial systems in America to plan their out casting of the Jews; she discusses why the cruel logic of caste requires that there be a bottom rung for those in the middle to measure themselves against; she writes about the surprising health costs of caste, in depression and life expectancy, and the effects of this hierarchy on our culture and politics. Finally, she points forward to ways America can move beyond the artificial and destructive separations of human divisions, toward hope in our common humanity.

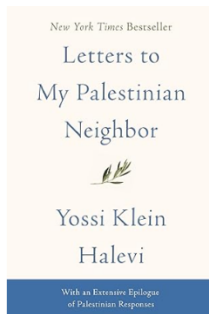


## Love Letter to the Earth

by Thich Nhat Hanh

While many experts point to the enormous complexity in addressing issues ranging from the destruction of ecosystems to the loss of millions of species, Thich Nhat Hanh identifies one key issue as having the potential to create a tipping point. He believes that we need to move beyond the concept of the "environment," as it leads people to experience themselves and Earth as two separate entities and to see the planet only in terms of what it can do for them. Thich Nhat Hanh points to the lack of meaning and connection in peoples' lives as being the cause of our addiction to consumerism. He deems it vital that we recognize and respond to the stress we are putting on the Earth if civilization is to survive. Rejecting the conventional economic approach, Nhat Hanh shows that mindfulness and a spiritual revolution are needed to protect nature and limit climate change.

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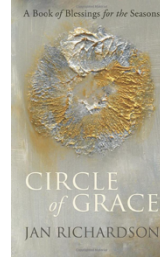


## Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor

by Yossi Klein Halevi

Attempting to break the agonizing impasse between Israelis and Palestinians, the Israeli commentator and award-winning author of *Like Dreamers* directly addresses his Palestinian neighbors in this taut and provocative book, empathizing with Palestinian suffering and longing for reconciliation as he explores how the conflict looks through Israeli eyes. And now, in a brand-new Epilogue, Palestinian readers have been given a chance to respond through their own powerful letters. *I call you "neighbor" because I don't know your name, or anything personal about you. Given our circumstances, "neighbor" might be too casual a word to describe our relationship. We are intruders into each other's dream, violators of each other's sense of home. We are incarnations of each other's worst historical nightmares. Neighbors?*

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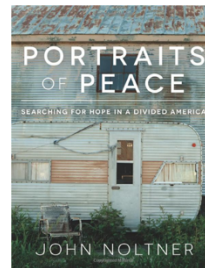


## Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons

by Jan Richardson

"Within the struggle, joy, pain, and delight that attend our life, there is an invisible circle of grace that enfolds and encompasses us in every moment. Blessings help us to perceive this circle of grace, to find our place of belonging within it, and to receive the strength the circle holds for us." - from the Introduction. Beginning in Advent and moving through the sacred seasons of the Christian year, *Circle of Grace* offers Jan's distinctive and poetic blessings that illuminate the treasures each season offers to us.

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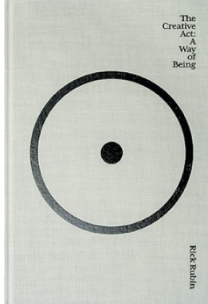
## Portraits of Peace: Searching for Hope in a Divided America

by John Noltner

Frustrated with an increasingly polarized social landscape, award-winning photographer John Noltner set out on a 40,000-mile road trip across the United States to rediscover the common humanity that connects us. He did so by asking people one simple question: "What does peace mean to you?" Through difficult conversations, gentle humor, and a keen eye for beauty, Noltner's *Portraits of Peace* captures a rich collage of who we are as a nation. Beautiful storytelling and captivating photography converge to offer a uniquely human and accessible examination of the social issues that most challenge us today, such as racial equality, immigration reform, LGBTQ+ rights, women's rights, freedom of religion, and tolerance. Through the real-world stories of ordinary citizens who choose, in the midst of difficult circumstances, to pursue healing, reconciliation, and community building, we discover a glimmer of hope that something better is possible.

*Portraits of Peace* offers a promising road map to a peaceful future as a pluralistic society.

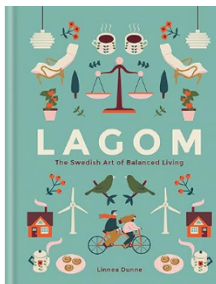
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## The Creative Act: A Way of Being

by Rick Rubin

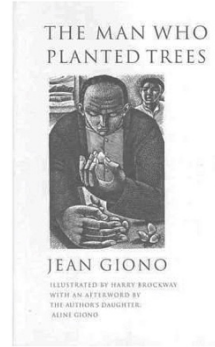
Many famed music producers are known for a particular sound that has its day. Rick Rubin is known for something else: creating a space where artists of all different genres and traditions can home in on who they really are and what they really offer. He has made a practice of helping people transcend their self-imposed expectations to reconnect with a state of innocence from which the surprising becomes inevitable. Over the years, as he has thought deeply about where creativity comes from and where it doesn't, he has learned that being an artist isn't about your specific output, it's about your relationship to the world. Creativity has a place in everyone's life, and everyone can make that place larger. In fact, there are few more important responsibilities. *The Creative Act* is a beautiful and generous course of study that illuminates the path of the artist as a road we all can follow. It distills the wisdom gleaned from a lifetime's work into a luminous reading experience that puts the power to create moments—and lifetimes—of exhilaration and transcendence within closer reach for all of us.



## Lagom: The Swedish Art of Balanced Living

by Linnea Dunne

Lagom (pronounced 'lah-gom') has no equivalent in the English language but is loosely translated as 'not too little, not too much, just right'. It is widely believed that the word comes from the Viking term 'laget om', for when a mug of mead was passed around a circle and there was just enough for everyone to get a sip. But while the anecdote may hit the nail on the head, the true etymology of the word points to an old form of the word 'lag', which means 'law'. Far from restrictive, **lagom is a liberating concept**, praising the idea that anything more than 'just enough' is a waste of time. Crucially it also comes with a selflessness and core belief of responsibility and common good.



## The Man Who Planted Trees

by Jean Giono

Twenty years ago Chelsea Green published the first trade edition of *The Man Who Planted Trees*, a timeless eco-fable about what one person can do to restore the earth. The hero of the story, Elzéard Bouffier, spent his life planting one hundred acorns a day in a desolate, barren section of Provence in the south of France. The result a total transformation of the landscape—from one devoid of life, with miserable, contentious inhabitants, to one filled with the scent of flowers, the songs of birds, and fresh, flowing water. Since its first publication, the book has sold over a quarter of a million copies and inspired countless numbers of people around the world to take action and plant trees.



## Illinois Trails & Traces: Portraits and Stories along the State's Historic Routes

by Gary Marx and Daniel Overturf.

Marx and Overturf bring history into the present by including over forty photographic portraits and written profiles of individuals who live along these routes today. Many of the people you will meet on these pages work to preserve and honor the history of these passages. Others profiled here embody the spirit of the old roads and provide a vivid link between past and present. Through this journey, we discover that we've all been traveling the same road all along.

If you have books or writings to share that would help us reform our relationship to the earth, each other and with the divine please share them with us: Together we can make positive change. With good courage, Chuck + Peg [studio@genesisart.org](mailto:studio@genesisart.org)