

Remembering By Wendell Berry

[illegible]

for the past quarter century on his kentucky farm wendell berry has lived out in practice the beliefs that have informed his writing both as a polemical ecologist and an admired stylist in prose and poetry his writings over twenty five titles currently in print include powerful and influential essays poem meditations and the sequence of four novels and a collection of short stories set in the fictional kentucky community of port william this volume the fourth in the confluence american authors series and the first full length study of wendell berry addresses both the diversity and unusual coherence of this classic body of work back cover

a sequence of poems in which berry writes of the land he and his wife hold in trust a farm they have tended for years and a new homestead they recently rescued from ecological disaster

this poetry collection about nature community and tradition is a stunning primer on the poetic works of the award winning kentucky writer environmentalist and cultural critic the selected poems of wendell berry gathers one hundred poems written between 1957 and 1996 chosen by the author these pieces have been selected from each of nine previously published collections the rich work in this volume reflects the development of berry s poetic sensibility over four decades focusing on themes that have occupied his work for years land and nature family and community tradition as the groundwork for life and culture the selected poems of wendell berry celebrates the broad range of this vital and transforming poet

tom pohrt spent years gathering poems by wendell berry that he thought children might read and appreciate making sketches to accompany his selection terrapin is the result a volume of twenty one poems with dozens of sketches drawings and watercolors in full color we have not only a volume of staggering beauty but a consummate example of the collaborative effort that is fine bookmaking the perfect gift for children grandchildren or anyone who remains a lover of the book as physical object

the sanity and eloquence of these poems spring from the land in kentucky where wendell berry was born married lives farms and writes from classic pastoral themes both lyrical and reflective to a verse play to a dramatic narrative and the manic entertaining prescient ravings of berry s mad farmer these poems show a unity of language and consciousness skill and sensitivity that has placed wendell berry at the front rank of contemporary american poets

ranging from america s insatiable consumerism and household economies to literary subjects and america s attitude toward waste here berry gracefully navigates from one topic to the next he speaks candidly about the ills plaguing america and the growing gap between people and the land despite the somber nature of these essays berry s voice and prose provide an underlying sense of faith and hope he frames his reflections with poetic responsibility standing up as a firm believer in the power of the human race not only to fix its past mistakes but to build a future that will provide a better life for all

a stunning collection of poems and other writings on love nature spirituality and hope from the award winning kentucky writer who returned american poetry to a wordsworthian clarity of purpose new york times book review no one writes like wendell berry whether essay novel story or poem his inimitable voice rings true as natural as the land he has farmed in kentucky for over forty years following the widely praised given this new collection offers a masterful blend of epigrams elegies lyrics and letters with the occasional short love poem alternately amused outraged and resigned berry s welcome voice is the constant in this varied mix the book concludes with a new sequence of sabbath poems works that have spawned from berry s sunday morning walks of meditation and observation berry s themes are reflections of his life friends family the farm the nature around us as well as within he speaks strongly for himself and sometimes for the lost heart of the country as he has borne witness to the world for eight decades what he offers us now in this collection of poems is of incomparable value

poems espousing marriage responsibility and the values of an independent man with his own small farm

in this wendell berry s fifth novel and ninth work of fiction andy catlett revisits his own ninth year in the summer of 1944 when his beloved uncle is shot and killed by the surly and mysterious carp harmon this is his uncle andrew after whom the boy is named someone who savored company talk some kind of to do something to laugh at years later still possessed by the story andy seeks to get to the bottom of all this to understand the two men and their lethal connection berry deftly balances andy s investigation into the town s past with an equally moving realization not only of the sustaining value of memory but of the manner in which they are shaped in enduring ways by what they love a sharp portrait of a town nursing its secrets over decades kirkus reviews

this volume contains a collection of stories by wendell berry the titles featured include the wild birds 1985 fidelity 1992 and watch with me 1994

published in 1990 by gnomon press this volume combines two small books of poetry by wendell berry both with expanded texts in sayings and doings the inner lives of the country people berry knows so well surface in sayings stories reminiscences and a number of jocular dialogues many are expressions we hear and often mean to remember but when we start to retell them find that we have forgotten the exact wording without which they lose their effectiveness here the poet remembers well one can hear as one reads and the rural speech has been whittled so that not a syllable is wasted the condensed nature of sayings and doings is mirrored in the asian influence of an eastward look which includes haiku the journal like sequence a long journey and a small notebook and the masterful chinese painting poems for those familiar with many other collections of berry s poems this volume will acquaint them with other facets of his work until now too little known

a portrait of one of america s most profound and honest thinkers this book combines biographical sketches personal accounts literary criticism and social commentary to illuminate berry as he is a complex man of place and community with a depth of domestic intellectual filial and fraternal attributes

stern but compassionate author wendell berry raises broader issues that environmentalists rarely focus on in one sense berry is the voice of a rural agrarian tradition that stretches from rural kentucky back to the origins of human civilization but his insights are universal because our only world is filled with beautiful compassionate writing and careful profound thinking associated press the planet s environmental problems respect no national boundaries from soil erosion and population displacement to climate change and failed energy policies american governing classes are paid by corporations to pretend that debate is the only democratic necessity and that solutions are capable of withstanding endless delay late capitalism goes about its business of finishing off the planet and we citizens are left with a shell of what was once proudly described as the american dream in this collection of eleven essays berry confronts head on the necessity of clear thinking and direct action never one to ignore the present challenge he understands that only clearly stated questions support the understanding their answers require for more than fifty years we ve had no better spokesman and no more eloquent advocate for the planet for our families and for the future of our children and ourselves

a striking contribution to the conversation that is conservatism wendell berry poet novelist essayist critic farmer has won the admiration of americans from all walks of life and from across the political spectrum his writings treat an extraordinary range of subjects including politics economics ecology farming work marriage religion and education but as this enlightening new book shows such diverse writings are united by a humane vision that finds its inspiration in the great moral and literary tradition of the west in the humane vision of wendell berry mark t mitchell and nathan schlueter bring together a distinguished roster of writers to critically engage berry s ideas the volume features original contributions from rod dreher anthony esolen allan carlson richard gamble jason peters anne husted burleigh patrick j deneen caleb stegall luke schlueter matt bonzo michael stevens d g hart mark shiffman and william edmund fahey as well as a classic piece by wallace stegner together these authors situation berry s ideas within the larger context of conservative thought his vision stands for reality in all its facets and against all reductive isms for intellect against intellectualism individuality against individualism community against

communitarianism liberty against libertarianism wendell berry calls his readers to live lives of gratitude responsibility friendship and love notions that as this important new book makes clear should be at the heart of a thoughtful and coherent conservatism

here is a human being speaking with calm and sanity out of the wilderness we would do well to hear him the washington post book world the art of the commonplace gathers twenty essays by wendell berry that offer an agrarian alternative to our dominant urban culture grouped around five themes an agrarian critique of culture agrarian fundamentals agrarian economics agrarian religion and geobiography these essays promote a clearly defined and compelling vision important to all people dissatisfied with the stress anxiety disease and destructiveness of contemporary american culture why is agriculture becoming culturally irrelevant and at what cost what are the forces of social disintegration and how might they be reversed how might men and women live together in ways that benefit both and how does the corporate takeover of social institutions and economic practices contribute to the destruction of human and natural environments through his staunch support of local economies his defense of farming communities and his call for family integrity berry emerges as the champion of responsibilities and priorities that serve the health vitality and happiness of the whole community of creation

whether we know it or not whether we want to be or not we are members of one another since 1960 wendell berry b 1934 has produced one of the most substantial and consistently thematic bodies of work of any modern american writer in more than fifty books in various genres novels short stories poems and essays he has celebrated a life lived in close communion with neighbors and the earth and has addressed many of our most urgent cultural maladies his collections of essays urge us to think and act responsibly as members of a community both human and natural volumes of his poems seek to wed us to nature and realign our vision with its mysteries his growing port william cycle of novels offers us a fictional model for understanding for compassion and for living in constant regard for others conversations with wendell berry gathers for the first time interviews with the writer ranging from 1973 to 2006 including one never before published for readers acquainted with berry s work this volume offers insights available nowhere else it reveals succinctly the main currents of his life s work what emerges is a citizen writer profoundly affected by cultural crises at home and in the world morris allen grubbs directs the preparing future faculty program in the graduate school at university of kentucky where he was a student of berry s he is editor of home and beyond an anthology of kentucky short stories photograph wendell berry by pam spaulding courtesy cjf

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