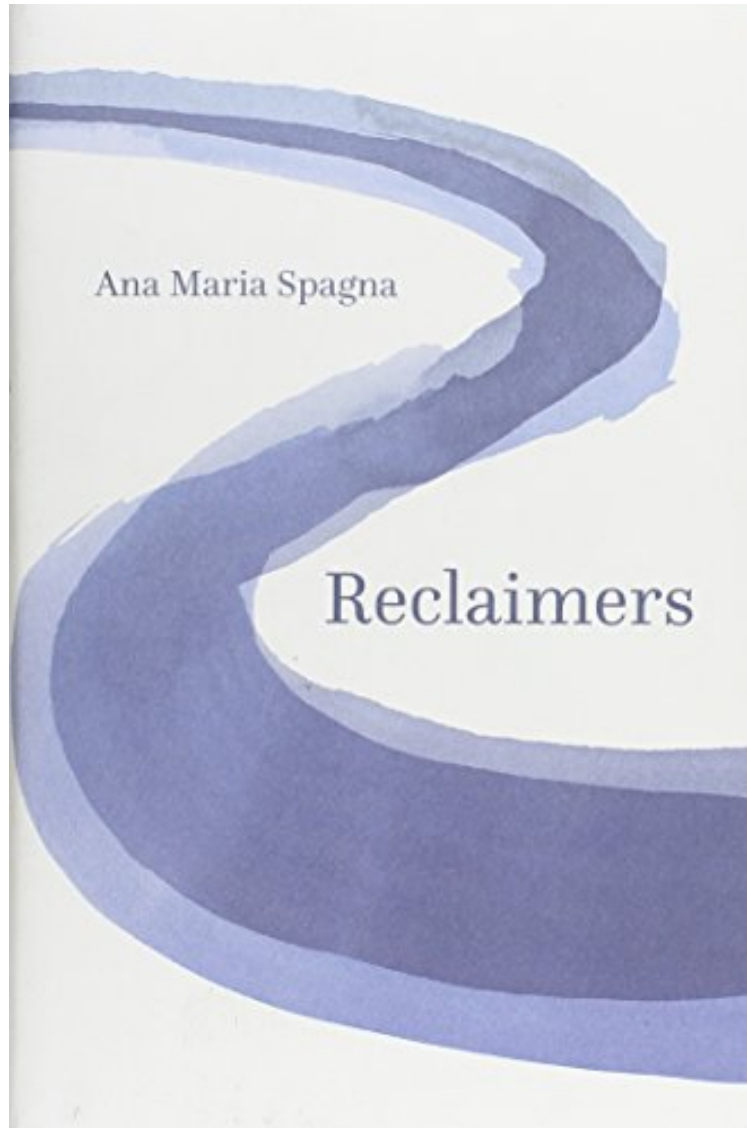


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Reclaimers

Ana Maria Spagna

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Ana Maria Spagna : Reclaimers before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Reclaimers:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An insightful gem.By Kim Brown Seely"Reclaimers" is about tenacity, humility, long solo trips through the West spurred by curiosity, an aging Buick, seeking out Indian elders and unlikely activists, listening to their stories. And much more. Ana Maria Spagna writes eloquently about two small California tribes: the Timbisha Shoshone of Death Valley and the Mountain Maidu of the Northern Sierras. And her

journey is full of surprises. Most Californians, I'd wager, have probably never heard of the Timbisha or Maidu (pronounced my-doo). Spagna seeks out their stories, often finding charismatic women who have worked tirelessly to take nature back. These are the reclaimers individuals who reclaim, ordinary people doing remarkable work. Her probing quest makes a delightful read, the kind you find yourself underlining or reading aloud to a fellow Westerner, saying, "did you know this?" The resulting narrative leaves you hopeful: that were part of an interconnected whole, and that even in the face of greed and shrinking natural resources, a person with persistence and clarity of vision can in fact make a difference. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A story for our timeBy Forest WoodwardA valuable and timely contribution to the canon of wilderness literature, Ana Maria's "Reclaimers" provides a contemporary and deeply insightful look into the entangled forces of humans and nature. Taken on a journey to spaces we often see, but seldom consider; from where the backyard meets the woods, to the banks of the great reservoirs that power the country, and deep into the heartland of the native reservations. They are spaces where the lines blur and the answers (to questions seldom asked) are slow to reveal themselves; yet is a place into which Ana Maria steps with a quiet determination, taking us into an oft seen, but seldom spoken of fringe land. The battlefield of the Reclaimers.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Reclaiming Efforts I Knew Nothing About Until Reading This BookBy Claudia SkeltonThere was so much to learn about the individuals trying to reclaim rural lands in our western territory. It is powerful to read about decisions that have been made over the decades and how the land, the culture, and the peoples have suffered. The author travels throughout the west and meets with native americans and others who are attempting to reclaim the land and let it return to it's natural state. I had traveled through some of these locales, but until reading this book I knew nothing about the history of the land. The book was engaging in part due to the author's interweaving of her journey to learn and understand. We learn about her experiences and we meet many individuals trying their best to make a difference. Traveling around the rural western lands has taken on more depth and beauty. Worth the read.

For most of the past century, Humbug Valley, a forest-hemmed meadow sacred to the Mountain Maidu tribe, was in the grip of a utility company. Washington's White Salmon River was saddled with a fish-obstructing, inefficient dam, and the Timbisha Shoshone Homeland was unacknowledged within the boundaries of Death Valley National Park. Until people decided to reclaim them.In *Reclaimers*, Ana Maria Spagna drives an aging Buick up and down the long strip of West Coast mountain rangesthe Panamints, the Sierras, the Cascadesand alongside rivers to meet the people, many of them wise women, who persevered for decades with little hope of success to make changes happen. In uncovering their heroic stories, Spagna seeks a way for herself, and for all of us, to take back and to make right in a time of unsettling ecological change.

Spagna's enthusiasm for their dedication and causes is irresistible. Such struggles are the real deal, after all, and what reader wouldn't cheer on these tenacious underdogs trying to remedy past damage? We're blessed with opportunities to make a difference, the writing shows...The lessons of her journeys, those readers can glean from these pages, are 'Do what you can. Hope without hope. Expect the unexpected.--Irene Wanner"Seattle Times" (01/01/2015)Spagna's enthusiasm for their dedication and causes is irresistible. Such struggles are the real deal, after all, and what reader wouldn't cheer on these tenacious underdogs trying to remedy past damage? We're blessed with opportunities to make a difference, the writing shows...The lessons of her journeys, those readers can glean from these pages, are 'Do what you can. Hope without hope. Expect the unexpected.--Irene Wanner"Seattle Times" (01/01/2015) "The premise of this book, that the urge for reclamation is a deep human need which is played out in our relationships to place, offers the potential for healing the apparent breach between people and the living landscape. This big idea is told in a humble way, through the stories of ordinary people who are doing extraordinary work, with an especially important focus on the work of indigenous peoples to reclaim ancestral lands and relationships. Spagna makes these usually invisible struggles clearly visible."Robin Wall Kimmerer, author of *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants*"You have abandoned something precious in your life so you need to read Ana Maria Spagna's *Reclaimers* by way of forgiveness and forward motion. As this book's Timbisha Shoshone elder says, 'We don't break away from what is part of us.' Like revising a poem, or restoring a friendshipbut more complex by orders of magnitude*Reclaimers* describes the sustained determination of individuals and communities to do right by sacred land, holy places, and processes that myriad acts of desecration have hurt but failed to destroy. In a world where many places have been paved, trashed, squandered to lesser uses, there may still be passionate devotion, scrappy persistence, clarity about value, and whatever work it takes to save a placeor, in the case of this fine book, tell the story of that transforming miracle. These stories restore our faith in sacred land, and in ourselves. Dawn may yet illuminate what has been reclaimed."Kim Stafford, author of *100 Tricks Every Boy Can Do: How My Brother Disappeared*"When Ana Maria Spagna talks wilderness, people listen. In *Reclaimers*, she leads us up the slippery slope of government regulation, indigenous rights, salmon return, and forest management in search of moral high ground. If you live in the west, you will want to read this book. Bring a spare fan belt."Kathleen Alcal , author of *The Desert Remembers My Name*"A compelling and important book. In a recent talk, Barry Lopez said that the difference

between 'authentic stories' and 'inauthentic stories' is that authentic stories are about 'us' but inauthentic stories are only about the person telling the story. For me, this is an authentic story, an important one to tell, and more hopeful than what I am used to."Robin Hemley, author of *Nola: A Memoir of Faith, Art, and Madness*About the AuthorAna Maria Spagna is the author of several books, most recently *Potluck: Community on the Edge of Wilderness*. She lives in Stehekin, Washington.