

Fall 9-1-2020

Late Migrations: A Natural History of Love and Loss

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Recommended Citation

Stilwell, Kristine (2020) "Late Migrations: A Natural History of Love and Loss," *The Southeastern Librarian*: Vol. 68 : Iss. 3 , Article 14.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln/vol68/iss3/14>

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women's activities from inside their homes to outside and into the public section. She explains how allowing women to care and impact neighborhoods and organizations allowed them to move beyond the walls of the home and the meeting spaces to which they were previously confined.

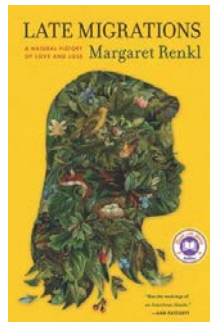
Holcomb explains there was a significant success of the work of the WMU when they built the establishment of the social work initiative. It involved years spent building and supporting the idea of social workers to carry out the initiatives of community building and community development in small and large communities across the nation.

A great historical resource for libraries with many good photographs, highlighting the women who dedicated time and effort to building the WMU. Recommended for academic, public, and archival libraries.

Carol Walker Jordan, Ph.D., MLIS

Late Migrations: A Natural History of Love and Loss

Margaret Renkl
Minneapolis: Milkweed
Editions, 2019
ISBN: 9781571313782
248 p. \$24.00 (Hbk)



After sheltering in place for a few months during the spring of 2020, articles about the rediscovered importance of family and the wonders of nature that are right in front of us, or at least in our yards, appeared. These themes are at the center of Margaret Renkl's lovely and prescient book, *Late Migrations: A Natural History of Love and Loss*. The chapters alternate, more or less, between 112 brief essays about five generations of Renkl's family and her observations about the nature that resides just beyond her back door. The book is neither a formal family history nor a nature guide. Instead, it is a meditation about life and the loss that occurs as the seasons come and go.

The family history Renkl recounts begins with the birth of her mother in 1931, in the land of peanuts, wiregrass, and red dirt roads known as Lower Alabama. She relays family stories passed down and she includes brief vignettes from her own story. Renkl describes tender moments with

family members, the heartache of her mother's depression, the moment she realized she could read a children's book by herself, and the time her grandmother was shot in the chest. Renkl's essays work forward toward the present. Yet some events from the past, such as the grief that resides in the wake of a loved one's death, linger and sometimes find temporary lodging in the here and now.

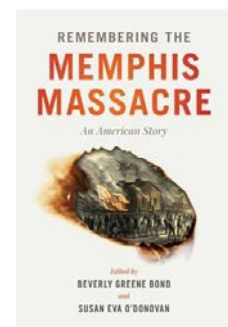
Renkl states that she must continually relearn that there is "splendor in decay" (p. 212). However, the sorrow that accompanies loss requires no instruction—and neither does the joy that life brings. Her delight in the natural world radiates throughout this book. She finds so much pleasure watching the simple creatures, plants, and trees in her suburban backyard. Although Renkl claims not to be a scientist, her writings about flora and fauna harken to that of Aldo Leopold or Annie Dillard. When once asked if she is a trained naturalist, Renkl replied humbly that she is "more of a trained Googler" (p. 73). Renkl is far too modest. She is an op-ed columnist for the *New York Times* and writes about the flora, fauna, and culture of the South. Renkl's keen powers of observation are especially noteworthy because her vision is failing.

Margaret Renkl grew up in Birmingham, Alabama, and she now resides in Nashville, Tennessee, but it was the trips to see her grandparents that imprinted the piney woods on her. Family and place reside in her quiet moments. Her mother comes to her in her dreams and the blue jay's song takes her home again. Recommended for public and academic libraries.

Kristine Stilwell, University of North Georgia

Remembering the Memphis Massacre: An American Story

Beverly Greene Bond and
Susan Eva O'Donovan
Athens: University of Georgia
Press, 2020
ISBN: 9780820356501
232 p. \$99.95 (Hbk)



As with many books published today by our university presses, a title is critical to call attention to an author's passion for years of painstaking research and dedication to the seeking