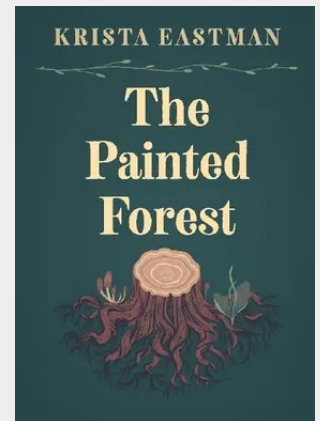


Painted Forest

In this often-surprising book of essays, Krista Eastman explores the myths we make about who we are and where we're from. *The Painted Forest* uncovers strange and little-known "home places" —not only the picturesque hills and valleys of the author's childhood in rural Wisconsin, but also tourist towns, the "under-imagined and overly caricatured" Midwest, and a far-flung station in Antarctica where the filmmaker Werner Herzog makes an unexpected appearance. *The Painted Forest* upends easy narratives of place, embracing tentativeness and erasing boundaries. But it is Eastman's willingness to play—to follow her curiosity down every odd path, to exude a skeptical wonder—that gives this book depth and distinction. An unlikely array of people, places, and texts meet for close conversation, and tension is diffused with art, imagination, and a strong sense of there being some other way forward. Eastman offers a smart and contemporary take on how we wander and how we belong.

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18,90 €

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Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9781949199192

Medium: Buch

ISBN: 978-1-949199-19-2

Verlag: West Virginia University Press

Erscheinungstermin: 01.10.2019

Sprache(n): Englisch

Auflage: Erscheinungsjahr 2019

Serie: In Place

Produktform: Kartoniert

Gewicht: 143 g

Seiten: 144

Format (B x H): 127 x 178 mm

