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SUSTAINABLE LIVING IN THE “AGE OF ROUNDUP”

While Margaret Renkl never explicitly uses the word “sustainability” in *Late Migrations*, it is clear that she is deeply concerned about the devastating impact humans are having on the environment and the natural world. She highlights the disappearance of honeybees and butterflies due to the widespread use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. She also addresses the shifting patterns of bird migrations caused by climate change—a theme reflected in the book’s title. Rather than proposing a systematic or political solution to these environmental challenges, however, Renkl’s essays instead promote cultivating a deeper appreciation for nature through small, everyday individual habits—such as butterfly gardening and bird feeding, etc. Her sustainable gestures are portrayed not as ultimate solutions to the global environmental crisis, but rather as personal acts of love that change our personal relationship with nature in significantly positive ways.

“So I lie awake in the dark and plot solutions to the problems of pollinators—the collapse of the honeybee hives and the destruction of the monarch habitats—in the age of roundup.”

WHAT DOES SUSTAINABILITY MEAN TO YOU?

WHAT DOES SUSTAINABLE LIVING

LOOK LIKE TO YOU?

WHAT HABITS COULD YOU

CULTIVATE TO LIVE MORE SUSTAINABLY?

USA COMMON READ/COMMON WORLD
2025/26 BOOK SELECTION:

LATE MIGRATIONS
A NATURAL HISTORY OF LOVE AND LOSS

