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Notes from editor (not for publication):



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 'Into the Wilderness,' Luskin's 2010 award-winning
2 novel, to be reissued by Sibylline Press

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4 TEXT BODY:

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5 A second edition of Deborah Lee Luskin's 2010 award-
6 winning novel *Into the Wilderness*, hailed by the Rutland Herald
7 as "a fiercely intelligent love story," will be reissued by Sibylline
8 Press.

9 A celebration of the relaunch will take place Friday, April
10 10, at ByWay Books & More on Canal Street starting at 5:30 p.m.
11 Luskin will read and sign copies.

12 *Into the Wilderness*, set in the mid-1960s, tells the story
13 of Rose Mayer, who has buried her second husband and wonders
14 what she's going to do with the rest of her life. Reluctantly, she
15 visits her son's summer place in Vermont, where there are neither
16 sidewalks, Democrats, nor other Jews. She meets Percy Mendell
17 at the Orton Fourth of July book sale, and it's dislike at first sight.

18 Percy is a born-and-bred Vermonter who has never
19 married, never voted for a Democrat, and never left the state.
20 After a satisfying career as the county's agricultural agent, he's
21 facing retirement and doesn't know what he'll do unmoored from
22 work. He meets Rose again at the Marlboro Music Festival, where
23 music becomes their common language.

24 Set against the backdrop of Vermont's changing politics
25 and seasons, *Into the Wilderness* is testament to the endurance of
26 the human heart. The story resonates more than ever in today's
27 divisive times, Luskin says.

28 "When I wrote the book, it was a love story. Now, the
29 story of a Democrat and a Republican falling in love seems like
30 fantasy fiction. It's also a story of how people from away and
31 Vermonters perceive one another — still an issue."

32 1964 was the first time in over a century that Vermont
33 supported a non-Republican — Lyndon B. Johnson — for
34 president. It was the beginning of Vermont's lean toward the left.

35 Luskin's book drew much praise in 2010 when it first
36 came out. "Times of transition — personal, political, and in a
37 particular place — are the tectonic plates whose tremors shake
38 loose the story at the heart of Deborah Lee Luskin's tender and
39 touching first published novel," wrote White River Press, the
40 publishers of the first edition, in a news release. Seven Days
41 called *Into the Wilderness* "a perfectly gratifying read."

42 Vermont Senate President Pro Tem and author Philip
43 Baruth kvelled, "Luskin's heroine Rose Mayer is an honest to God
44 miracle. Rarely has a fictional creation come to seem so perfectly
45 real to me, and never [before] have I cheered — out loud — as a

46 character in a novel worked her way through the last stages of
47 grief.”

48 Like her character Rose Mayer, Luskin is “from away.”
49 She started visiting Newfane in 1965. In 1984, she came for the
50 summer — and never left. Like many Vermonters, Luskin has held
51 a variety of jobs, from office manager to radio commentator. A
52 believer in civic engagement, she has volunteered for both civic
53 and social organizations.

54 Luskin is also the author of *Reviving Artemis: The Making*
55 *of a Huntress*, a memoir published last fall about finding her
56 place in the natural world by following the deer into the
57 untracked woods. Her blog, *Living in Place*, posts regularly on
58 Substack.

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