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**Notes from editor (not for publication):**



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 The deer, humans, and the forest are all connected, for  
2 both better and worse

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

3 Join two authors to discuss how humans can help forests  
4 thrive

####END SUBHED####

5 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

6 I DIDN'T BECOME a full-blooded conservationist until I  
7 became a deer hunter. It was only through learning from the deer  
8 how to read the untamed landscape that I came to understand  
9 the natural world and my place in it.

10 I learned to walk into the woods in the dark and started  
11 to pay attention to moonrise and phase.

12 I watched the sun rise like theater lights coming on  
13 slowly and stopped suffering from the darkness that annually  
14 descended on my soul during the shortening days of November.

15 I became observant and learned how trees grow in  
16 community, red squirrels scold, and the Bruce spanworm moth  
17 survives by waiting to emerge after its predators head south for  
18 the winter.

19 I learned how the northern forest is imperiled by human  
20 development and by too many deer, by forest fragmentation, and  
21 by habitat degradation.

22 And I've experienced the scorn and contempt in which  
23 some self-defined nature lovers hold hunters and hunting.

24 I even experienced cancel culture, when a conservation  
25 organization that owns land open to hunting cancelled an event  
26 where I was to speak about how becoming a deer hunter brought  
27 me to a deeper understanding of our human impact on the  
28 natural world and our need to conserve it — for humans, for the  
29 deer, and for the Earth.

30 One of my motivations for writing *Reviving Artemis: The*  
31 *Making of a Huntress* was to help readers understand how the  
32 deer, humans, and the forest are all connected, for both better  
33 and worse.

34 Deer suffer from habitat loss and forest fragmentation  
35 caused by human development; the forest suffers from too many  
36 deer eating the saplings meant to replace mature trees; and  
37 humans suffer from deer-born parasites, crop damage, and deer-  
38 motor vehicle collisions.

39 Humans are the ones who can change these factors by  
40 changing our behavior and conserving land, reconnecting  
41 wildlife corridors, and protecting the forest from too many deer.  
42 It's a complex equation, with many approaches all with the same  
43 aim: a thriving forest, healthy deer, and humans in balance with  
44 nature.

45 \* \* \*

46 SUSIE SPIKOL AND I will present "Cousins in Conservation"  
47 at the Keene Public Library on Thursday, April 23 at 6 p.m. We  
48 are cousins and wise women who followed different paths to  
49 similar ends: a deep love for the northern forest, language, and  
50 stories.

51 Susie and I were both born in New York, both grew up  
52 on pavement, and have each been living in northern New  
53 England for decades, Susie in New Hampshire and me in  
54 Vermont. Susie is a writer, educator, and naturalist; I'm a writer,  
55 educator, and deer hunter.

56 Susie is the author of three books: *The Animal*  
57 *Adventurer's Guide*, *Forest Magic for Kids*, and *The Book of*  
58 *Fairies*. I'm the author of two: *Reviving Artemis: The Making of a*  
59 *Huntress*, a memoir, and *Into the Wilderness*, a novel.

60 I hope those who hunt, those who don't hunt, and those  
61 who oppose hunting will all attend to meaningful and  
62 broadminded conversation about some of the many ways we  
63 humans can help forests thrive.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL####

64 **DEBORAH LEE LUSKIN** is now an Artemis Ambassador,  
65 a volunteer arm of the National Wildlife Federation promoting  
66 conservation and women in the outdoors. The Keene Public  
67 Library is at 60 Winter St. in Keene, New Hampshire.

####END BIO/COATTAIL####

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VIDEO:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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