



# Swimming at Suppertime: Seasons of Delight on the Wrong Side of Buzzards Bay

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Swimming at Suppertime: Seasons of Delight on the Wrong Side of Buzzards Bay Carol Wasserman Master storyteller and beloved NPR commentator Carol Wasserman shares the quirky joys and tribulations of her "impecunious, ordinary, fixed little life" among fellow Swamp Yankees in her raggedy little tourist town on the Massachusetts coast, across the water from upscale Cape Cod. In the tradition of Bailey White and Garrison Keillor, she regales us with amusing and touching stories about the colorful characters and yearly rituals—from the absurd to the sublime—that keep her so closely tethered to the town and her ancient, crumbling half-Cape house, which she describes as "a fragile, sinking, lovely old wreck of a place that I have come to confuse with my own flesh."

In these tales that have delighted millions of listeners, she tells about the fine art of buying apples from squabbling orchard owners who impugn one another's fruit; the wild enthusiams of her dearly departed husband, Aubrey, who was once sure he'd discovered a tiny Stonehenge by the side of the road; the pleasures of buying abandoned sewing projects while others scrape and claw at the semiannual rummage sale; the reassuring qualities of living life amid ghosts and her neighbor's claims of witnessing ectoplasm in the upstairs hall; her several days spent in darkness because of a rutabaga casserole; her discovery of the surprising religious fervor of a good friend who prays to a guy named Wendell; the strange comforts of the sound of coyotes singing in the middle of the night; and the community of ladies who swim at suppertime, when the beach is deserted and they know "the ocean will be as warm as the primordial soup."

**Swimming at Suppertime** is the remarkable debut of one of the most original and entertaining new voices writing about the wondrous daily surprises and pleasures of American life.



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