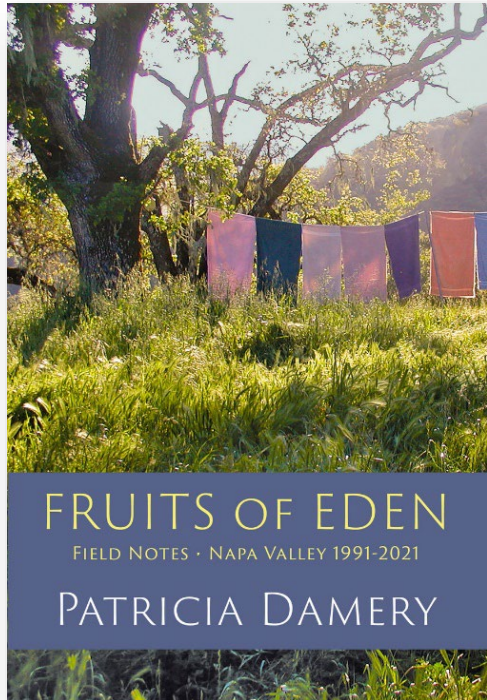




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Title: **Fruits of Eden**
Subtitle: **Field Notes, Napa Valley 1991-2021**
Author: **Patricia Damery**
Publisher: Dancing Raven Press
Distributor: Ingram
Publication Date: September 2022
Pages: 229
Trim: 7"x10"
Illustrations: B&W photos
US Paperback price: \$24
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Subjects: *Napa Valley, water crises, environmental protection, climate change, wine industry, local government failure, Alzheimer's disease, citizen activism, love of nature, oak trees, family.*

In the Valley of Demons, Dreams and Delights: Fighting for Eden's Survival

In *Fruits of Eden*, author Patricia Damery takes readers on a thirty-year journey, vividly recounting her citizen activism to protect the world-famous Napa Valley from the ravages of over-development, water plundering, government failures, greed and damaging tourism.

Damery's articulate and illustrative voice is a powerful call that interweaves the story of her ranch with her history, reflections, marriage and her husband's onset of dementia. His Alzheimer's began at the same time as pressure on the ranch's sustainability became acute. Conversely, there is also great hope. The author's relationships with colleagues in action for the valley, her children, her grandchildren and friends all share a deep love for this extraordinary place on the planet.

Over the decades Damery and her husband, Donald Harms, developed a way of life that respected the natural ecology of their land in the Napa Valley. They applied organic and biodynamic methods, left large parts in their natural state, and had a herd of goats that lived next to Patricia's writing studio. Then climate change coupled with egregious overdevelopment overcame them, threatening to destroy their way of life. Destruction of native oaks caused erosion and groundwater depletion, insecticide use disrupted the balance of animal life, including beneficial insects, population density and tourism brought air pollution and congestion, and finally global warming brought repeated fires, a risk that continues today.



About the Author

While farming organic lavender and grapes, Patricia Damery also practiced as a Jungian psychoanalyst and has had four books published, as well as numerous articles. A Board Member of the activist group Napa Vision 2050 and co-editor of its newsletter, *Eyes on Napa*, she served on the Executive Committee of the Napa Sierra Club and has been an active participant on the Sierra Club Redwood Chapter's Northern California Forest Committee, Oak Working Group. She maintains a blog at <https://www.patriciadamery.com>

Advance Praise

"This is so refreshingly far from the usual Napa Valley memoir as to constitute a new genre. Instead of self-celebration so common, it's at once a full autobiography, a paean to the natural world, and a vivid lesson in the challenges and rewards of working the land oneself. In the course of unwrapping her personal history, the author lays out her considerable involvement in the efforts of environmentalists in Napa to slow down the ravages of development of the one of the most famous and threatened valleys on Earth."

—**James Conaway**, author of *Napa at Last Light*

"Napa is a special place, for its beauty, and for the care some of its residents take in protecting it even in these dire decades of climate chaos. That shines through in these pages."

—**Bill McKibben**, author *The End of Nature*

"As a long-time friend to Patricia, I have always been amazed by her open heart, her open eyes, her intense willingness to put to word to what so many can barely conceptualize or articulate. She gives wings to our wounded hearts and feelings of helplessness in the face of the mass destruction of our home planet. Patricia inspires us towards collective action in accepting the sacred responsibility to reach to our highest potential as care givers of Mother Earth."

—**Charlie Toledo**, Executive Director, Suscol Intertribal Council

"An alchemical book, *Fruits of Eden* is the record of one soul's deepening and complexifying through the mystery of committed relationships -- with a wonderful husband whose memory is slowly slipping away, with an eloquent and sagacious tree, with the imagist magic of dreams, and with the exhilarating but difficult practice of democracy itself. And, underlying and sustaining all those ongoing relations, the book tracks the author's soulful metamorphosis through her full-bodied and fiercely committed relationship with a powerful piece of land, a worthy place on the breathing earth."

—**David Abram**, author of *Becoming Animal* and *The Spell of the Sensuous*

"In this riveting book, activism in the world and contemplation of the sacred and profane, with its glimpses of wholeness and pain of fragmentation, go hand in hand. *Fruits of Eden* narrates the journey of an absolutely unique person in an absolutely singular place at a ripe time of Kairos that simultaneously becomes a microcosm of the whole world. This is an extraordinary book by an extraordinary human being."

—**Tom Singer**, Editor of *Cultural Complexes* and *The Soul of America: Myth, Psyche, and Politics*