

My First Summer in the Sierra

John Muir



John Muir's life and work were based on his religious faith and his love of nature. Both were formed in his Scottish childhood in Dunbar in East Lothian. He later wrote: *When I was a boy in Scotland I was fond of everything that was wild, and all my life I've been growing fonder and fonder*

of wild places and wild things. Fortunately, around my native town of Dunbar by the stormy North Sea, there was no lack of wildness, though most of the land lay in smooth cultivation. In 1849 Muir emigrated with his family to the USA. There he began a career as engineer, naturalist, geologist, conservationist and wanderer that resulted in the founding of the primary ecologist body in the USA, the Sierra Club, and in the establishment of the National Park movement. *My First Summer in the Sierra* was published in 1911 but was based on notebooks Muir kept in the summer of 1869 when he explored the Sierra Nevada in California. He had taken on a summer job herding some 2,000 sheep with two dogs and another shepherd, whose company he was pleased to escape to wander alone through the magnificent landscape. During a visit with Theodore Roosevelt to the Yosemite Valley in 1904, he convinced the President to establish the Sierra as a National Park. The impact of his work lies not only in this but also in the global acceptance of his view of landscape as ecosystem. He is commemorated in place names throughout California.



JOHN MUIR MY FIRST SUMMER IN THE SIERRA

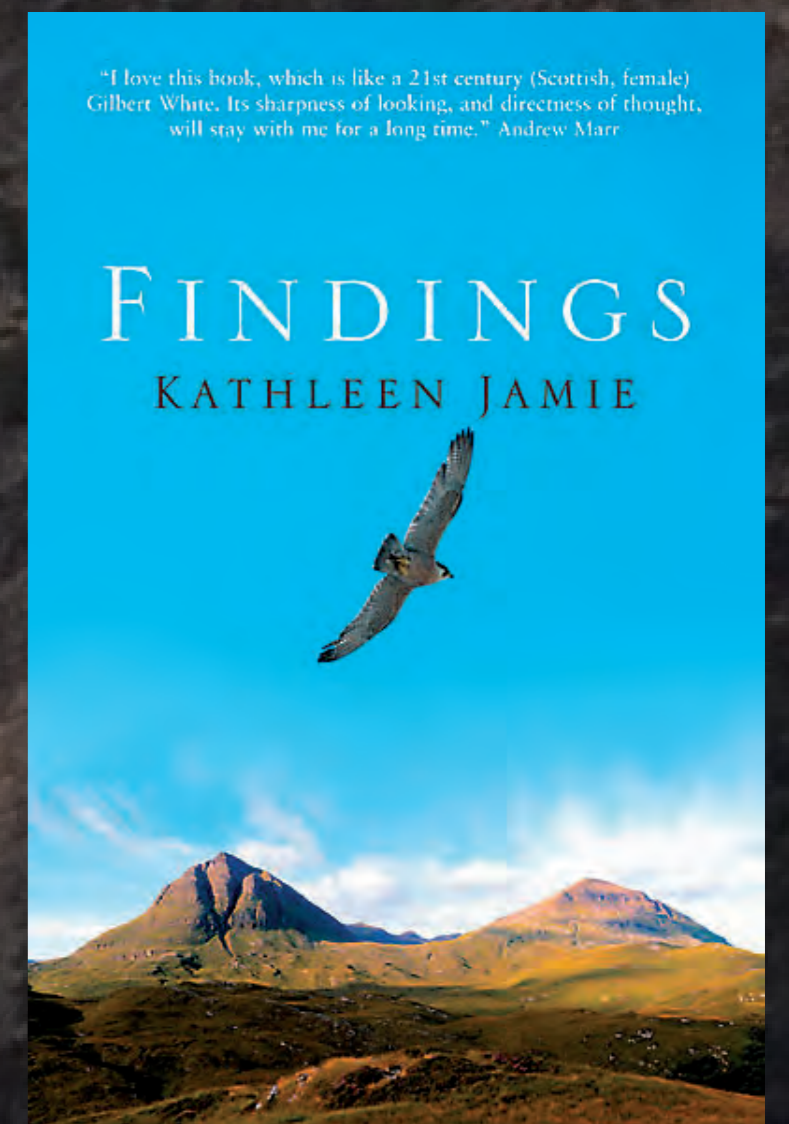
"No other writer is so ceaselessly astonished by the natural world as he."
Robert Macfarlane



INTRODUCTION BY ROBERT MACFARLANE



© James Gardiner



"I love this book, which is like a 21st century (Scottish, female) Gilbert White. Its sharpness of looking, and directness of thought, will stay with me for a long time." Andrew Marr

FINDINGS KATHLEEN JAMIE

The tradition of natural history writing continues to thrive today.

Try *Findings*
Kathleen Jamie
Sortofbooks

ISBN 978-0954221744

© Sortofbooks

Scotland, Ink

© James Gardiner