***A Speaker is a Wilderness: Poems on the Sacred Path from Broken to Whole***

**Author: Anna Goodman Herrick**

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*Topics: Poetry, Mental Health, Spirituality, Judaism, Human Rights, LGBTQIA, Sexual Assault Recovery, Feminism, Trauma Healing, Generational Healing*

**ABOUT THE BOOK AND AUTHOR**

*A Speaker is a Wilderness: Poems on the Sacred Path from Broken to* *Whole* (Monkfish Publishing, 2024) by Anna Goodman Herrick weaves Jewish sacred texts, mysticism, human rights, and a modern voice of radical love, taking readers on a path of healing from brokenness to wholeness.

**This poetry addresses the interconnection of individual, communal, and global trauma, towards collective liberation.** In ancient Hebrew, the words for wilderness, speaker, and speaks are spelled the same and share the same root letters. Goodman Herrick’s title, from a poem in the collection, references the Torah’s BaMidbar (in the wilderness or desert) and her ancestors’ ritual practice of elevating etymology, roots, and folk word associations as spiritual meditation. The author returns to her roots and original wholeness through reconnecting language: “Wilderness speaks/ A speaker is a wilderness.”The book explores generational healing through the author relearning her ancestral wisdom in Judaism.

Goodman Herrick survived sexual assault in her teens by a classmate, and left home at 14. The grandchild of an Auschwitz survivor, she’s been a New York City club kid, MTV writer-producer, a peacemaker around the world, nun at a Vedanta convent, and student of Chassidic rabbis. This expansiveness lives in her poems. The book invites readers to reconsider prayer and blessing as an ongoing, fluid, language, holding space for the reverent and irreverent as prophetic.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR: MEET ANNA GOODMAN HERRICK**

Anna Goodman Herrick has performed her poetry across the U.S., including at the Emily Dickinson Museum’s Phosphorescence Poetry Reading Series, presenting "contemporary creativity that echoes Dickinson’s own revolutionary poetic voice." Anna is a writer, poet, filmmaker, and interdisciplinary artist, invited to create art installations based on her poems.

She has performed at the El Paso border for Artist Uprising with V (formerly Eve Ensler), Bloomsday on Broadway and Radio Bloomsday, and at the Theopoetics Conference. Her recent poetry is included in Rattle, The Los Angeles Press, The Ekphrastic Review, and Ritualwell. She has written and created work for television and branded content for Sony, ABC Family, Oprah Winfrey Network and MTV and shared her work at the Library of Congress, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and in film, stage, museums and galleries nationwide.

**WHY THIS BOOK, WHY NOW**

At a time when women and marginalized genders are acknowledging and investigating their own intersecting trauma, Anna Goodman Herrick’s poetry answers the call with a route for healing. As so many people feel broken, ***A Speaker is a Wilderness*** engages and **carves the path to recovering our wholeness.**

Anna Goodman Herrick has devoted herself and her writing to important issues, living a courageous life. **At a time of great division, Anna Goodman Herrick’s poems are a call to radical love.**

**More about the author and book:** [www.annagoodmanherrick.com](http://www.annagoodmanherrick.com)Instagram: @annagoodmanherrick

Advanced Reader Copies of the book in hard copy and PDF of the galleys, as well as media assets, are available.

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