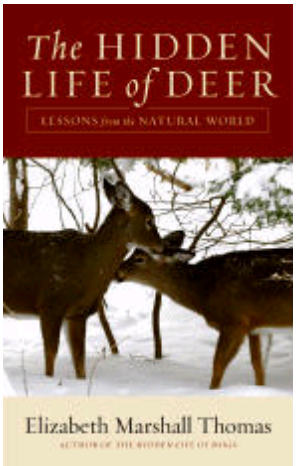

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The Hidden Life of Deer

Lessons from the Natural World

Elizabeth Marshall Thomas

The *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Hidden Life of Dogs* turns her attention to wild deer, and the many lessons we can learn by observing nature

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In the fall of 2007 in southern New Hampshire, the acorn crop failed and the animals who depended on it faced starvation. Elizabeth Marshall Thomas began leaving food in small piles around her farmhouse. Soon, she had over 30 deer coming to her fields, and her naturalist's eye was riveted. How did they know when to come, all together, and why did they sometimes cooperate, sometimes compete?

Throughout the next 12 months she observed the local deer families as they fought through a rough winter, bred fawns in the spring, fended off coyotes, a bobcat, a bear, and plenty of hunters, and made it to the next fall when the acorn crop was back to normal. As she hiked through her woods, spotted tree rubbings, deer beds, and deer yards, she discovered a vast hidden world.

Just as she did in her beloved books *The Hidden Life of Dogs* and *Tribe of Tiger*, Thomas describes a network of rules that have allowed earth's species to coexist for millions of years. Most of us have lost touch with these rules, yet they are a deep part...

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Author Bio

One of the most widely-read American anthropologists, Elizabeth Marshall Thomas has observed dogs, cats, and elephants during her half-century-long career. In the 1980s Thomas studied elephants alongside Katy Payne -- the scientist who discovered elephants' communication via infrasound. In 1993 Thomas wrote *The Hidden Life of Dogs*, a groundbreaking work of animal psychology that spent nearly a year on the *New York Times* bestseller list. Her book on cats, *Tribe of Tiger,* was also an international bestseller. She lives in Peterborough, New Hampshire, on her family's former farm, where she observes deer, bobcats, bear, and many other species of flora and fauna.