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Animal Sanctuary

By Sarah Falkner

Starcherone Books. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 200 pages. Dimensions: 8.4in. x 5.5in. x 0.7in. Booklist review: In a stealthily affecting reportorial voice, debut novelist Falkner tells the story of tepidly successful 1960s movie actress Kitty Dawson via interviews, critiques, press coverage, and plot summaries of her movies (one involves packs of rampaging dogs, another giant mutant rabbits). Kittys intensifying affinity for animals inspires her and her husband to open a California sanctuary for abused and neglected exotic big cats. Were also granted glimpses into the lives of Kittys body double, a college student searching for a missing friend while on location in Africa; director Albert Wickwood, a clever and cutting variation of Alfred Hitchcock; and Kittys son, Rory, a spiritually oriented performance artist. Other pieces in this brilliantly analytical, ironically funny, and tenderly empathic scrapbook novel illuminate curious parallels between hunting and filmmaking, the ethics of nature documentaries, the suffering of lab animals, discrimination against immigrants, the commercialization of art, and how movies function in place of fairy tales and myths to shape what you fear and hope for. Stylistically fresh, culturally lush, intellectually exciting, and elegantly emotional, Falkners provocative, surreptitiously beautiful novel dissolves the boundaries between animals and humankind,...



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