The Western approach to nature has always operated under both spiritual and scientific views. While Christianity decrees that human beings have dominion over nature, evolutionary biology teaches us that we are but highly adapted animals among a biological network of millions of other species. What is our proper relationship to wild animals—and what is our responsibility to them?

In *The Bullhead Queen*, Sue Leaf exemplifies the moral aspect of humans to nature through a collection of engaging meditations on the places she sees every day on Pioneer Lake in east-central Minnesota. Reflecting on the birds she peers at through binoculars and the Lutheran church that anchors the lakes southern shore, Leaf contemplates how her relationship to nature has been colored by the Christian theology of her childhood. Acknowledging the influence of the church on her view of the natural world, she follows the liturgical calendar as a thread, chronicling the change of seasons over the year.

Leaf considers the results of the assumption that nature is ours to use: we continue to fish, trap, and hunt animals whose populations are ghosts of their former selves and produce mounting environmental pressures on their habitats. Observing the ways in which the heavy hand of human beings has changed the landscape of Pioneer Lake, and many others like it, she also rejoices in the ways in which the lakes remain wild and exuberant, influencing the lives of all who encounter them.

Features:
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My Personal Review:
In this collection of essays that spans a year of seasons on a small Minnesota lake, Sue Leaf skillfully weaves together her deep knowledge of the natural world with touchstones of the Lutheran liturgical calendar. That said, this is not a "religious" book, but rather one that sheds light on the influence that the cycle of seasons has on the traditions of the church.
Leaf’s grasp of history and biology allows us to see the natural world and our role in it through a different lens. Although I am not a churchgoer, the book held my interest. Each essay illuminated the familiar landscape and taught me something new about my surroundings and my fellow Minnesotans.

For More 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price:

The Bullhead Queen: A Year on Pioneer Lake by Sue Leaf - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!