After beating breast cancer in her late forties, Eva Saulitis again faces the shadow, knowing this time the result will not end well. Saulitis revels in the nostalgia and secret pleasures that come from knowing it's all fleeting. She searches for answers from European poets and Buddhist scholars, from women in treatment chat rooms, from family, from routine; she looks out into the wilderness, at the salmon dying in the river without the ease of morphine, at stone structures broken from water freezing, expanding inside. Becoming Earth is the account of a woman living life in the presence of death, trying to make sense of a world that will keep going, even though she won't.

**Synopsis**

A gorgeous and insightful meditation on living with dying. Many essays spring from realizations triggered by Saulitis' deep attention to the natural world. That angle is augmented with a cast of family and friends (including dogs), the author's childhood, and references to culture that keep the collection from seeming one note, or unappealing to non "nature" types. It is so nuanced, personal and moving I can't imagine any reader coming away unchanged. How sad to lose such a beautiful writer so early. How lucky we were to have her on this earth as long as we did. Her other four books are all profound too, so if this is your intro to her work, you have much to discover.

Utterly majestic.
Amazing

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