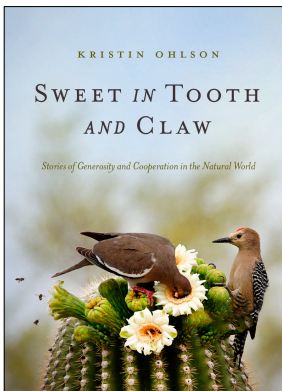




For Immediate Release  
stephanie@wildridgepr.com  
512-810-9238

## The Science of Cooperation and Generosity in Nature

***From the author of *The Soil Will Save Us* comes a look at new and surprising understandings of what nature needs to thrive***



In a follow-up to her groundbreaking book *The Soil Will Save Us: How Scientists, Farmers, and Foodies Are Healing the Soil to Save the Planet* (Rodale 2014), journalist Kristin Ohlson offers optimism in the midst of our environmental crisis through stories of people partnering with nature.

Her forthcoming book ***Sweet in Tooth and Claw: Stories of Generosity and Cooperation in the Natural World*** (Patagonia, September 6, 2022) presents a paradigm shift in how a growing group of scientists think about the mutually beneficial interactions that they believe support every species on earth. Counter to the idea of “survival of the fittest,” in which organisms’ primary relationship is the competition for resources, *Sweet in Tooth and Claw* offers an alternative understanding of nature, one crucial to rolling back and preventing further damage to our planet.

Through interviews with biologists, ecologists and farmers in the field, Ohlson’s deeply researched case studies and observations show example after example of how nature is sweet, not ravenous. The new understanding of mutualism is driving scientists to reconsider everything they think about the natural world, which, Ohlson writes, includes humans.

“How might our behavior change if we understood the extent to which cooperation within and among species undergirds the natural world and makes it thrive?” writes Ohlson. “Could we begin to see ourselves as partners and helpers, part of a greater fabric of giving, instead of exploiters and colonizers and wreckers?”

The title *Sweet in Tooth and Claw* plays on Tennyson’s poem “In Memoriam A.H.H.,” in which he references nature as “red in tooth and claw.” The book extends the concept of cooperation in nature from *The Soil Will Save Us* to the life-affirming connections among microbes, plants, fungi, insects, birds, and animals—including humans—in ecosystems around the globe. Ohlson tells stories of trees and mushrooms, beavers and bees. There are chapters on a wide variety of ecosystems and portraits of the people who learn from them: forests (the work of Suzanne Simard); scientists who study the interaction of bees and flowers in the Rocky Mountains; the discovery of bacteria and protozoa in the mid-1600s by

Dutch scientist Antoni von Leeuwenhoek; ranchers and biologists restoring wetlands in desertified northeastern Nevada; and more. Ohlson also recognizes older cultures that understood the necessary balance between nature's and human's needs, and to which we must turn at this time of climate crisis.

"I'm convinced that if we can learn to respect, not ravage, the rest of nature, we'll also become more generous and nurturing with each other," she writes.

*Sweet in Tooth and Claw* is a rich and fascinating book full of amazing stories, complemented by full-color photography, and is sure to challenge the reader's perspective on the natural world.

### About the Author

[Kristin Ohlson](#) is an author and freelance journalist in Portland, Oregon, who has published articles in the *New York Times*, *Orion*, *Discover*, *Gourmet*, *Oprah*, and many other print and online publications. Her magazine work has been anthologized in *Best American Science Writing* and *Best American Science Writing*. Ohlson's last book was *The Soil Will Save Us: How Scientists, Farmers and Foodies are Healing the Soil to Save the Planet*, which the *Los Angeles Times* called "a hopeful book and a necessary one.... a fast-paced and entertaining shot across the bow of mainstream thinking about land use." She appeared in the award-winning documentary film "Kiss the Ground" speaking about the connection between soil health and climate health.

### Praise

"Ohlson looks at nature through the lens of cooperation, from the intricate workings of one-celled creatures all the way to entire forests and cities (above and below ground). This deeply-reported and stunning book holds up a mirror to us humans, showing how we thrive when we embrace nature's generous spirit." – **Judith Schwartz, author of *The Reindeer Chronicles and Other Inspiring Stories of Working with Nature to Heal the Earth***

"Deftly weaving together science, social thought, and a remarkable cast of characters, Ohlson's book uncovers the marvelous partnerships that make life possible, showing that cooperation, not competition, is the key to survival." – **Liz Carlisle, author of *Healing Grounds: Climate, Justice, and the Deep Roots of Regenerative Farming***

### ***Sweet in Tooth and Claw: Stories of Generosity and Cooperation in the Natural World***

by Kristin Ohlson | published by Patagonia | ISBN 9781952338090

September 6, 2022 | \$27.95 US | 393 pages | Hardcover, Nonfiction

Media Contact: Stephanie Ridge, [stephanie@wildridgepr.com](mailto:stephanie@wildridgepr.com), 512-810-9238

Printed on 100% post-consumer waste paper

**patagonia®**