



The Mad Farmers Wife

By Rita Sims Quillen

Texas Review Press. Paperback. Condition: New. 64 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 0.2in. The Mad Farmers Wife is a response to a life lived on a mountain cattle farm in Southwest Virginia and also to a poetic persona created by noted Kentucky poet and essayist Wendell Berry over thirty years ago: the Mad Farmer. In a world increasingly detached from the land that supplies our all our essential resources, The Mad Farmers Wife tries to help us understand the complexity and challenge of living that life in todays economy and the dark life and death struggles that are a routine part of farm living. Prayer of the Mad Farmers Wife
May the weeds grow into heart-shaped hedges
Giving symmetry and order to ragged fields
That August sun has turned loose and ugly
Let sunburned calves and their tired mothers
Find a pool of wintercool shade
Between woods and creek
at our worlds edge. I am lost on a heat-shimmering quilt
Just yards from an open door where
My children watch for the relief of nightfall
And aimless bees and flies look to me
Saying, You must know something. Let there be silence once again
As voices dwindle to snowsoft murmur...



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