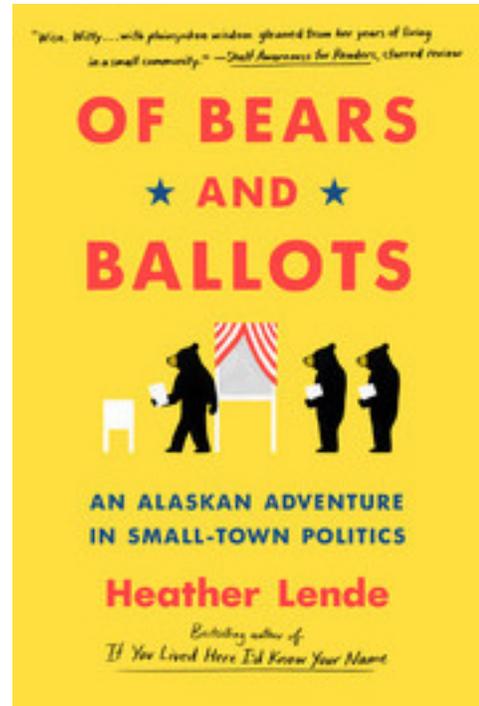


Of Bears and Ballots

Heather Lende

ON SALE 6/30/20

“Citizenship—real, active citizenship of the kind we badly need—is rewarding in a profound way; hopefully this book will inspire people to work with and for their neighbors in all kinds of ways!”—Bill McKibben, author of *Falter*



“This book is a fine story—told with compassion, wisdom and wit—about democracy, community, and decency in small-town America, and how to save the best of who we are. It’s medicine for the soul. I vote for Heather Lende.”—Kim Heacox, author of *John Muir and the Ice that Started a Fire*

The writer whom the *Los Angeles Times* calls “part Annie Dillard, part Anne Lamott,” now brings her quirky and compassionate take on holding local office in Alaska.

Following the 2016 election, writer Heather Lende was one the thousands of women inspired to take a more active role in politics. Like many of them, Lende felt a calling to serve. Though her entire campaign for assembly member in Haines, Alaska, cost less than \$1000, she won!

But tiny, breathtakingly beautiful Haines—a place accessible from the nearest city, Juneau only by boat or plane—isn’t the sleepy town that it appears to be on the surface: From a bitter debate

about the expansion of the fishing boat harbor to the issue of how to stop bears from rifling through garbage on Main Street to the recall campaign orchestrated on a secret Facebook page that targeted three assembly members, including Lende, we witness the nitty-gritty of passing legislation, the lofty ideals of our constitution, and how the polarizing national politics of our era plays out in one small town.

Lende displays her trademark humor and compassion as she learns important lessons about not taking criticism personally, when to stand up for what she believes and when to compromise, and not being afraid to ask for advice. With *Of Bears and Ballots*, Lende offers an entertaining cast of offbeat but relatable characters and an inspirational tale about what living in a community really means, and what we owe to each other.

Praise for *If You Lived Here, I'd Know Your Name*

“Delightful. . . . The writing is simple yet graceful. . . . A pleasure to read.” —*USA Today*

“Lende offers touching stories about neighbors with whom she shares wedding celebrations, potluck dinners, tears for missing fishermen—all the joys and sorrows of family life in a remote town.” —*People* magazine

“[A] beautiful, funny, compassionate story. . . . When, now and again, your reading is interrupted by tears, they will be the sweet sort.” —Michael Perry, author of *Population: 485*

“Part Annie Dillard, part Anne Lamott, essayist and NPR commentator Heather Lende introduces readers to life in the town of Haines, Alaska . . . subtly reminding readers to embrace each day, each opportunity, each life that touches our own and to note the beauty of it all.” —*Los Angeles Times*

Praise for *Take Good Care of the Garden and the Dogs*

“Lende writes emotionally but never sentimentally, giving us the best Alaska memoir of late, maybe the best ever.” —Booklist (starred review)

“The book is full of vivid characters . . . [Lende] has a simple, chatty style most readers will find oddly comforting. Life does, in fact, go on.” —*Los Angeles Times*

“Lende has a knack for subtly illuminating the remarkable in the commonplace . . . Her voice, which alternates between folksy and formal, playful and prayerful, entertaining and elegiac.” —*Minneapolis Star Tribune*

Praise for *Find the Good*

“Simple yet profound . . . [Lende’s] homespun stories will speak meaningfully to readers. The overarching message is that the life we get is precious, as obituary writer Lende knows so well, and should be lived in such a way as to create much good to be remembered by.” —*Booklist*

“Honest and simple yet full of lasting strength, the author’s prose demonstrates what makes a life better rather than worse—including something as simple as picking up heart-shaped stones on the beach with a grandchild.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

“Heather Lende has a rare gift and is a writer to be treasured and appreciated for all the tough times in your life, whether you are from a small town in Southeast Alaska or a city on the other side of the world.” —*The Seattle Review of Books*

“Lende’s short chapters resonate, reminding us that it’s worth looking at our relationships, our obligations, our priorities, our community, and our world from a fresh, positive perspective.” —*Utne Reader*