

Wild

AN ELEMENTAL JOURNEY

Jay Griffiths

HAMISH HAMILTON

an imprint of

PENGUIN BOOKS

Contents

WILD EARTH

Absolute Truancy 1 Drinking Hemlock and Stars 5 Telluric Thought 13
On the Río Marañón 17 Wild Language 21 Green Songlines 27 "If You Go to
the River Mouth . . ." 32 Up, Heathens All 34 Self-Willed Land 38 Bewitched,
Bebothered and Bewildered 42 The Genius of the Forests 44 Nothing Unthrust 47
"Not Enough Cunt. That's the Problem with Genesis." 51 A Gentle Rapport 56
The Axe-Man Cometh 60 Caging the Land 73 The Wasteland 77
The Jaguar's Apprentice 79 Feral Song 84

WILD ICE

Ice Music 87 Sight and Ice Light 99 Nightwinter, Daysummer and the
Twilight of Fall 99 The Poles of Meaning 94 The Whale Hunt 94
On Ice 102 Survival 107 Lost, Unlost and Temporarily Misplaced 112
The People Who Change Nature 118 The Nothingness, the Nothingness 115
Arktikós—The Country of the Great Bear 116 The Kind Wild 121
We Are Wild 123 The Polar Psyche 131 "Fear Not,—There Is a Briton at
Thy Door!" 127 Soloists in the Ice 133 Vagabond Fungi 135 Virgin 137 Caging
Wild Time 138 Stir-Crazy 139 Land as Medicine 146 A Melting World 149

WILD WATER

Sea Gypsies 153 A Marine Rattlebag 155 Underwater Mind 164 A Soundscape
the Size of the World 168 And Death Also Rises 173 Mothersea 175 A Hazard
to Shipping 178 The Lower Depths 180 Maps 183 Paradiso Giocoso 192
Utopia 193 Caligula to the Seas 196

WILD FIRE

Out Bush 201 A Compass in the Head 206 Songlines 207 "Land Our Heart.
Soul. Country." 209 Art, the Well of the Desert 213 Belowness 214 "A Hideous
Blank" 215 Naming and Taming 216 White Man's Rubbish 218 Land Rights 220
Terra Nullius 221 Head-hunters 222 A Man Can Only Be Free in the Desert 224
The Law of the Wild 227 Desert Days 229 "My Ey Dazels My Tong Burn" 236
A Sand Algebra 238 Eternity in the Sands 239 The Newspapers of the Desert 240
Mirages 242 A Desert Caprice: Phallus to the Fore 243 The Desert Fathers 245
The Devil in the Desert 246 Purity and the Scapescape 248 On Fire 249
Nomads All 252

WILD AIR

On the Bare Mountain 261 A Ruck in the Map 265 Coinspiring Air 275
Songlines of the Hills 277 Cannibals and Quarrels 279 Wild Mountain Lust 285
Tell Me About the Savages 288 Fire on the Mountain 294 Why Climb? 295
Merdeka. Eleutheria. Saoirse... Libertate. Freedom. 297 Rebel Angels 301
Cry Freedom! 305 Paradise Found 307 The Anarchic Will 309
A Nod to the Gods 312 "No Tobacco, No Hallelujah" 322 Cliffs of Fall 326

WILD MIND

The Wasteland of Tragedy 333 The Wildness of Comedy 339

Dedication 351

In Thanks 353

Bibliography 355

Index 369