



# Reclaiming the Commons for the Common Good

*Heather Menzies*

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## Reclaiming the Commons for the Common Good Heather Menzies

Commoning was a way of life for most of our ancestors. In *Reclaiming the Commons for the Common Good*, author Heather Menzies journeys to her roots in the Scottish Highlands, where her family lived in direct relation with the land since before recorded time.

Beginning with an intimate account of unearthing the heritage of the commons and the real tragedy of its loss, Menzies offers a detailed description of the self-organizing, self-governing, and self-informing principles of this nearly forgotten way of life, including its spiritual practices and traditions. She then identifies pivotal commons practices that could be usefully revived today. A final "manifesto" section pulls these facets together into a unified vision for reclaiming the commons, drawing a number of current popular initiatives into the commoning frame, such as local food security, permaculture, and the Occupy Movement.

An engaging memoir of personal and political discovery, *Reclaiming the Commons for the Common Good* combines moving reflections on our common heritage with a contemporary call to action, individually and collectively; locally and globally. Readers will be inspired by the book's vision of reviving the commons ethos of empathy and mutual respect, and energized by her practical suggestions for connection people and place for the common good.

Heather Menzies is an award-winning writer and scholar and member of the Order of Canada. She is the author of nine books, including *Whose Brave New World?* and *No Time*.

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