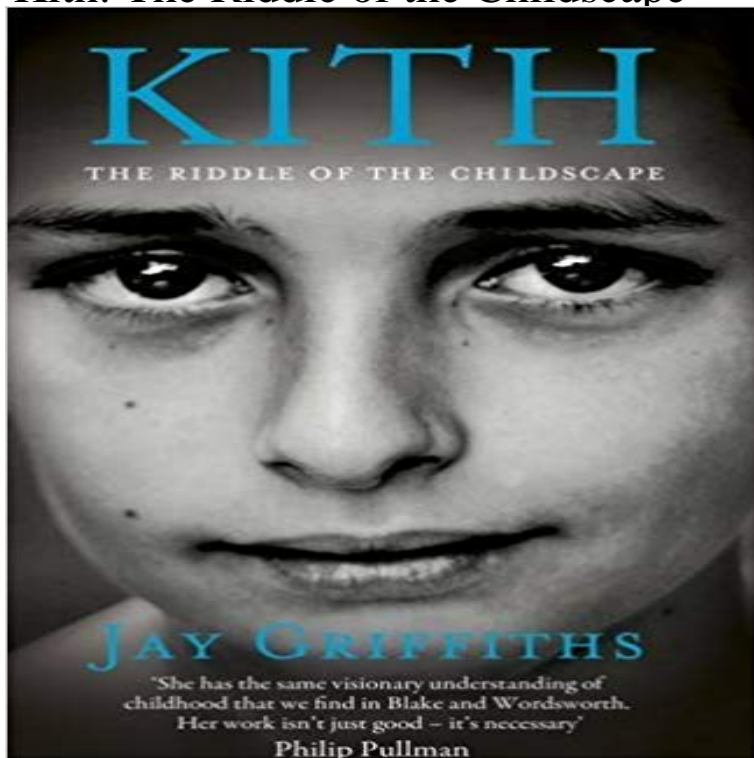


Kith: The Riddle of the Childscape



Kith is a passionate examination of what it means to be a child, by Jay Griffiths, the award-winning author of *Wild*. While travelling the world in order to write her award-winning book *Wild*, Jay Griffiths became increasingly aware of the huge differences in how childhood is experienced in various cultures. One central riddle, in particular, captured her imagination: Why are so many children in Euro-American cultures unhappy - and why is it that children in many traditional cultures seem happier? In *Kith*, Jay Griffiths explores these questions and many more. Moving from communities in West Papua and the Arctic to the ostracised young people of contemporary Britain, she asks why we have enclosed our children in a consumerist cornucopia but denied them the freedoms of space, time and deep play. She uses history, philosophy, language and literature to illustrate children's affinity for the natural world and the essential quest element of childhood. *Kith* is Jay Griffiths' impassioned, illuminating analysis of a universal rite of passage. In its urgent defence of the rights and needs of every child, it is a journey into the heart of human experience. *Kith* could have been written by no-one but Jay Griffiths. It is ablaze with her love of the physical world and her passionate moral sense that goodness and a true relation with nature are intimately connected. She has the same visionary understanding of childhood that we find in Blake and Wordsworth, and John Clare would have read her with delight. Her work isn't just good - it's necessary. (Philip Pullman). Jay Griffiths writes with such richness and mischief about the one thing that could truly save the world: its children. (KT Tunstall). An impassioned, visionary plea to restore to our children the spirit of adventure, freedom and closeness to nature that is their birthright. We must hear it and act on it before it is too late. (Iain McGilchrist).

Jay Griffiths is the author of *Pip Pip: A Sideways Look at Time*; *Wild: An Elemental Journey*; and *A Love Letter from a Stray Moon*, a novella about the life of Frida Kahlo. She is the winner of the inaugural Orion Book Award and of the Barnes & Noble Discover Award for the best new non-fiction writer to be published in the USA. She has also been shortlisted for the Orwell Prize and the World Book Day award.

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There are some books that demand to be read aloud, because their prose or their ideas are simply too astounding to keep to oneself. - 86 min *Kith* examines the history of breaking the will of the child and explores issues of childhood

Nature and childhood are terms that can be moulded into more or less any shape the user wants to make of them. If you're a green activist, In 2007 a Unicef report ranked the UK lowest among 21 rich, industrialised countries for the wellbeing of its children. Although we came a

Kith is Jay Griffiths's passionate examination of what it means to be a

travelling the world in order to write her award-winning book

BOOK REVIEWS. *Kith: the riddle of the childscape*, edited by Jay Griffiths, London, Hamish Hamilton, 2013, 419 pp., £20.00 (hardback), ISBN 978-0-241-14434-

Kith is Jay Griffiths's passionate polemic in defence of childhood. In *Kith*, Jay Griffiths seeks to discover why we deny our children the freedoms of space, time and the natural world. Jay Griffiths is the author of *Pip Pip: A Sideways Look at Time* *Wild: An Elemental Journey* and *Kith* is Jay Griffiths's passionate examination of what it means to be a child. While travelling the world in order to write her award-winning book *Wild*, Jay Griffiths

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