



One of the effects of the influx of humans to this region is that the wild animals are being displaced. For the most part we cohabitate quite comfortably. There are, however, those moments when the creatures assert their territorial rights. In winter, raccoons steal the suet balls I leave for the birds. In summer, deer reduce planters full of flowers to nothing more than stems. Empty bird feeders and blossomless plants stand as mute testimony to who really is in charge.

Maggie can also attest to the superiority of the wild critters. She's had several close encounters of the fragrant kind with one of the many skunks that roam the area. "



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