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Known typically as a writer from Texas and Montana, or simply as one of the greatest contemporary American environmental writers, Rick Bass can certainly be considered “a writer of the greater Great Plains,” the region stretching from the prairie near the Gulf of Mexico to the Rocky Mountain foothills of the inland Northwest. The twelve essays collected in A Thousand Deer span the twenty-year period from 1991 to 2011, with most of them having appeared in such publications as Texas Monthly or Texas Parks and Wildlife during the past decade. One piece, “The Silent Language,” is published in this book for the first time. Whether focusing on the author’s child-
A Thousand Deer captures this energy masterfully.

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