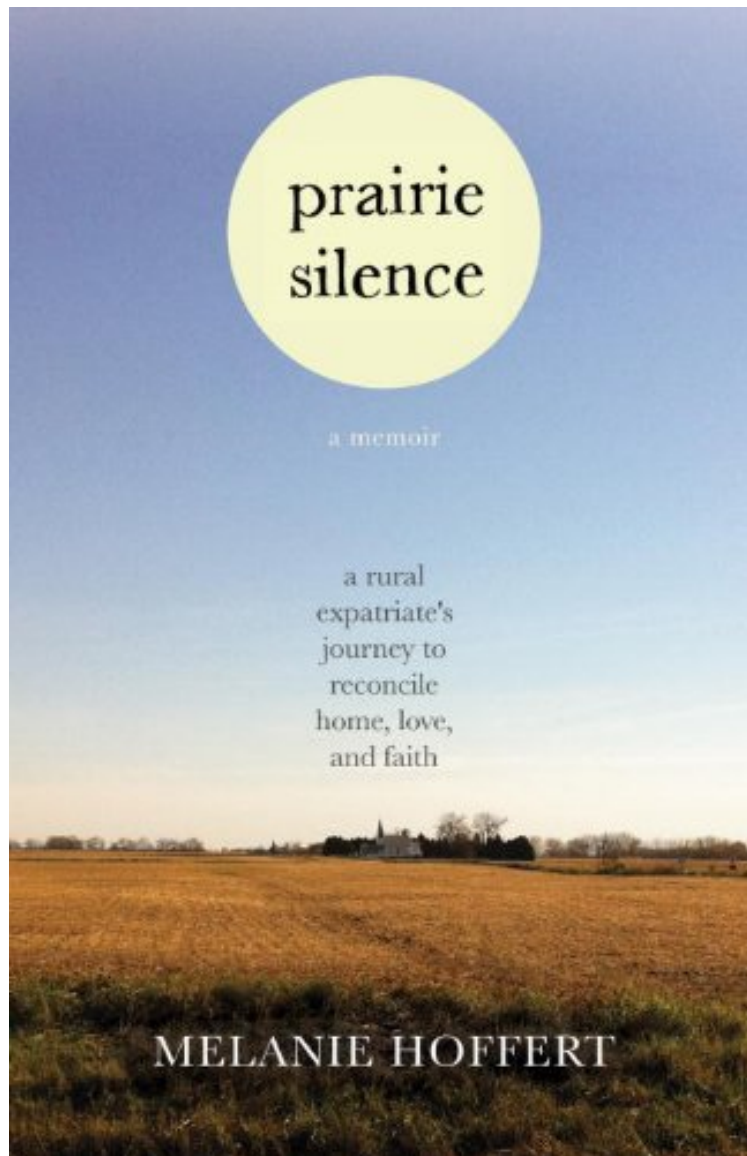


(Download pdf) *Prairie Silence: A Memoir*

## **Prairie Silence: A Memoir**

*Melanie Hoffert*

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#882943 in Books Melanie Hoffert 2014-01-07 2014-01-07 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.28 x .71 x 5.301, .70 #File Name: 0807045160248 pages *Prairie Silence* | File size: 70.Mb

**Melanie Hoffert : *Prairie Silence: A Memoir*** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Prairie Silence: A Memoir*:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Beyond silence By LearnerNB  
Melanie Hoffert has created a thoughtful and gentle portrayal of a disappearing way of life. What shines through is her love and understanding of the rural North Dakota landscape and the people that inhabit it and make their living in its small towns and farms. As Melanie poignantly describes the struggles of realizing she was in some way different than others growing up in her

small town, her honest memoir paves the way for all of us who have ever felt separate or different for any reason. This is a book that made me laugh and cry, but I felt like a better human being just for having read it. Bravo, Melanie Hoffert, for allowing the four-year old Melanie's revelation in a tree to bubble up through the ancient Lake Agassiz, beyond silence. Also, as a former public librarian, I would recommend this for all school and public library collections. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Wonderful Read By Edward Sellner "Prairie Silence" is a wonderful book describing the long and painful process of coming out to one's parents, family, friends, but most especially to oneself: learning self-acceptance in spite of all the prohibitions and shaming associated with being "different" sexually. Melanie Hoffert, a woman who lived as a child on a farm not far from Wyndmere, North Dakota, a small town where my father owned a bar, is an excellent writer, and her story leads the reader back and forth in time. Contemplative and insightful, her book reinforces the principle that what is most personal is most universal. I gained so much from her experience and perspective as I revisited in my memory my earlier life there. I highly recommend her book to everyone, whatever one's sexuality. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Broken Silence By Jennifer Hoffert shatters the ceiling and not only admits her darkest secrets - she publishes them for all the world to see. Bravely written, and beautifully told in lyrical metaphors and imagery, Hoffert bares all and exposes the most tender thoughts that all could wrestle with: what is my place in the world, how do I fit in and will I be judged for being my true self. The book weaves a present tense narrative of her memories of high school and first dalliances with love and heartbreak as well as the narrative of her time back in the "country" - reflecting on her youth, as she rediscovers the surrounding areas and people she knew growing up. This book is a beautiful love song to the prairie, as well as a voice for all who have struggled with secrets and how one rectifies that with the rest of the world. I look forward to more writing by this talented young woman.

A rural expatriate's struggle to reconcile family, home, love, and faith with the silence of the prairie land and its people. Melanie Hoffert longs for her North Dakota childhood home, with its grain trucks and empty main streets. A land where she imagines standing at the bottom of the ancient lake that preceded the prairie: crop rows become the patterned sand ripples of the lake floor; trees are the large alien plants reaching for the light; and the sky is the water's vast surface, reflecting the sun. Like most rural kids, she followed the out-migration pattern to a better life. The prairie is a hard place to stay, particularly if you are gay, and your home state is the last to know. For Hoffert, returning home has not been easy. When the farmers ask if she's found a fella, rather than explain that she actually dates women, she stops breathing and changes the subject. Meanwhile, as time passes, her hometown continues to lose more buildings to decay, growing to resemble the mouth of an old woman missing teeth. This loss prompts Hoffert to take a break from the city and spend a harvest season at her family's farm. While home, working alongside her dad in the shop and listening to her mom warn, Honey, you do not want to be a farmer, Hoffert meets the people of the prairie. Her stories about returning home and exploring abandoned towns are woven into a coming-of-age tale about falling in love, making peace with faith, and belonging to a place where neighbors are as close as blood but are often unable to share their deepest truths. In this evocative memoir, Hoffert offers a deeply personal and poignant meditation on land and community, taking readers on a journey of self-acceptance and reconciliation.

From Booklist In this affecting memoir, Hoffert proves that while you can indeed go home again, it will, of course, never be quite the same. A true child of the prairie, she grew up on a farm in North Dakota, experiencing, as many of her generational peers, a love-hate relationship with the vast, stark terrain and the decaying small towns that characterize the contemporary plains states. Despite her affinity with her childhood home, her essential need to escape was made more acute by the fact that she recognized, at an early age, that she was gay. Still, the literal and metaphorical prairie silence eventually drew her home for a monthlong stay at harvest time, because eventually to resolve everything, to truly find peace, you must come to terms with the place your inner soul calls home. A heartfelt coming-out story as well as an eloquent elegy to a rural way of life that is rapidly vanishing from the American landscape. --Margaret Flanagan A heartfelt coming-out story as well as an eloquent elegy to a rural way of life that is rapidly vanishing from the American landscape. Booklist In *Prairie Silence*, Melanie Hoffert shows how the landscapes of our childhood continue to speak to us, and through us, long after we've left them behind. In this beautifully written and deeply imagined memoir, Hoffert invites us back to her North Dakota farming community for a season of harvest, a personal journey of profound courage and grace. Judy Blunt, author of *Breaking Clean* Hoffert's bittersweet and compelling memoir recalls her struggles at ending her silence and creating a fuller life for herself. She illuminates the quiet grace of the people and land she loves and mourns the passing of a way of life. Minneapolis Star Tribune The quiet, lyric prose of Melanie Hoffert's *Prairie Silence* crept into my days, making it impossible for me to stop turning pages. This book is about looking for oneself in places we are so often afraid to venture. A beautiful debut from a brave new writer. Claire Bidwell Smith, author of *The Rules of Inheritance* This is a gorgeous book that evokes quiet country mornings and loud self-examination. . . . If you once believed that you can't truly ever go home again, *Prairie Silence* is a book you'll be eager to read. Washington Blade A heartfelt love song to a place and its people as well as an honest and rewarding rendering of the author's interior landscape. Kirkus s Hoffert's intimate memoir of place reveals a

personal journey both fraught and wondrous, and a present reality of surprising richness. Patricia Weaver Francisco, author of *Telling From the Hardcover* edition. About the Author Melanie Hoffert is the author of *Prairie Silence: A Memoir*. She grew up on a farm near Wyndmere, North Dakota, where she spent her childhood wandering gravel roads and listening to farmers at church potlucks. Her work has been published in several literary journals, and she holds an MFA in creative writing from Hamline University. Melanie lives in Minneapolis and works for Teach For America. Learn more about her work at [melaniehoffert.com](http://melaniehoffert.com).