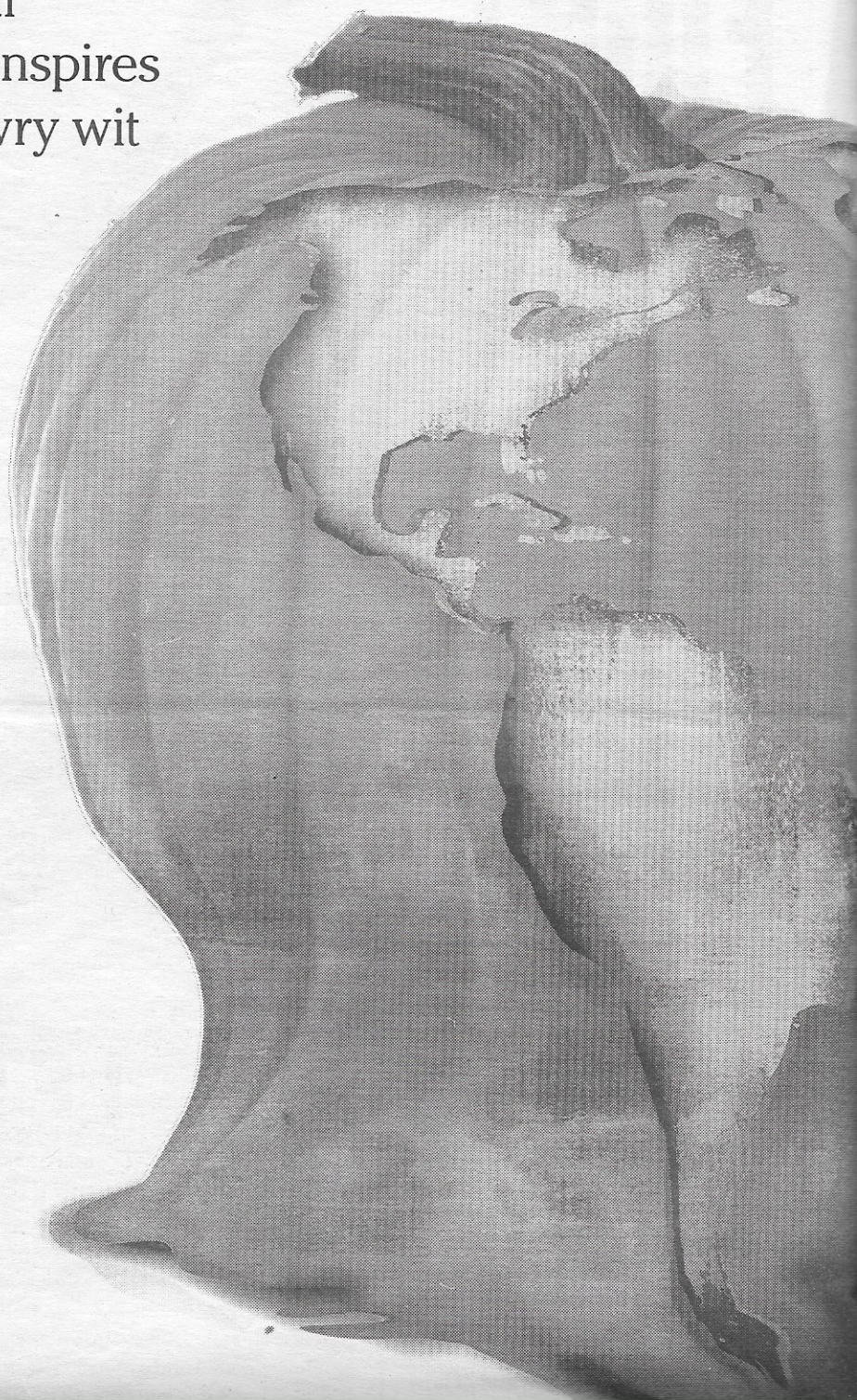
"The Big Swim: Coming Ashore in a World Adrift"

By Carrie Saxifrage | New Society Publishers | 2015 | Paperback | 192 pag

THE DELICATE ART OF PERSUASION MAY REQUIRE A PUMPKIN

A debut book by a local environmental activist inspires through confessional, wry wit

By RACHEL GINTNER
Contributing Writer



The debut book "The Big Swim: Coming Ashore in a World Adrift," by environmental activist and former Seattle lawyer Carrie Saxifrage is a swift, loving, persuasive text that reads as activist-art. The memoir, a detailing of her more recent years as a parent and as a climate reporter, dances with the reality that we're all adrift on an unsustainable and destructive path in maintaining a not-so-healthy Earth. The masses of us are not aware of the havoc we're wreaking, and we're facing a projection of future-Earth that's nothing short of gruesome.

In fact, it's ugly.

But Saxifrage happens to be the Tina Fey of all this depressing Earth-talk. She spews confessional hilarity. She's swapped places with David Sedaris — instead of "Diabetes with Owls" we have "Deforestation with Cinderella's Pumpkin."

And the saving grace she imparts within this golden comedy nugget is that we still have room to be key players in the climate change game. If we join now, if we end our normalized, counterproductive habits and if we see to it that our friends, strangers and the big-granny-wolf corporations around us do the same, we can reap goodness. We cannot save or fix everything. No, but we can do a lot.

Such grave and guilt-inducing topics as rising seas and animal extinction and (plenty) more might have left a reader in another tale riddled with insurmountable apprehension and a half-read book. But Saxifrage lets us see her anxiety and somehow feel better for it: "Un-