This paper begins with Michael Powell’s 1937 classic film *The Edge of the World* and continues with John Sayle’s 1993 psuedo-remake, *The Secret of Roan Inish (Seal Island)*. Both movies point to pithy connections with an unseen but acutely felt globalized adult world of ecotourism, privatization and land-use control. From these fantasies, I move to real world secrets embedded in the sands of Seal Beach (also known as Children's Pool) in La Jolla, California. The paper connects the real and imagined tensions in these places at the edge of our adult worlds, bringing them together through a consideration of the relations between children and nature. The idea that child well-being is intimately related to frequent and intimate connections with nature and wild things is pervasive in past and contemporary psychology and geography, but also in popular culture.

Interesting things occur when the well-being of children and wild things collide. The edge upon which young people and nature teeter is by no means clear-cut and, yet, what is often forgotten is that upon this balance is hoisted several centuries of child/nature construction throughout North America, with surprising parallels between Canada and the USA. Which side of the balance falls to children and which to nature at any particular time is less important than recognizing that there are no innocents in this drama and there are no conclusive endings. Nor is there any such thing as sitting and passively enjoying the unfolding drama. Academics and citizens alike are intimately implicated in our relations with the nonhuman and with the human-child and the politics of our co-creation.