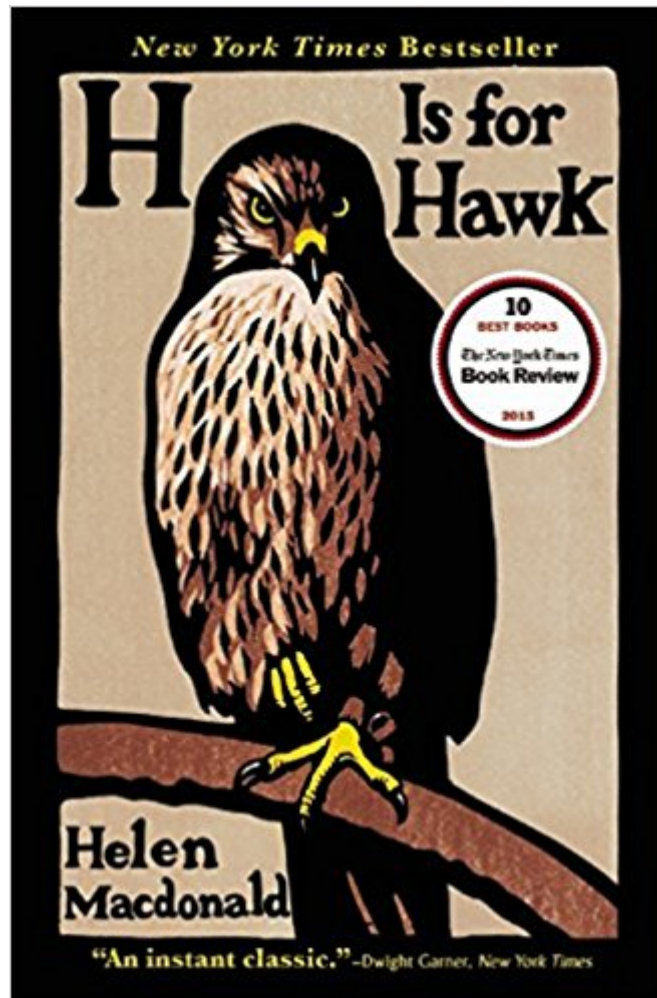




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# H Is For Hawk



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## Synopsis

One of the New York Times Book Review's 10 Best Books of the Year ON MORE THAN 25 BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR LISTS: including TIME (#1 Nonfiction Book), NPR, O, The Oprah Magazine (10 Favorite Books), Vogue (Top 10), Vanity Fair, Washington Post, Boston Globe, Chicago Tribune, Seattle Times, San Francisco Chronicle (Top 10), Miami Herald, St. Louis Post Dispatch, Minneapolis Star Tribune (Top 10), Library Journal (Top 10), Publishers Weekly, Kirkus Reviews, Slate, Shelf Awareness, Book Riot, (Top 20) The instant New York Times bestseller and award-winning sensation, Helen Macdonald's story of adopting and raising one of nature's most vicious predators has soared into the hearts of millions of readers worldwide. Fierce and feral, her goshawk Mabel's temperament mirrors Helen's own state of grief after her father's death, and together raptor and human "discover the pain and beauty of being alive" (People). *H Is for Hawk* is a genre-defying debut from one of our most unique and transcendent voices.

## Customer Reviews

An Best Book of the Month for March 2015: When naturalist and falconer Helen Macdonald lost her beloved father, she "thought [her] world was ending." Seems apropos, then, that her journey from crippling grief to something resembling grace is on the wings of another deadly bird of prey--the notoriously prickly, and murderous, goshawk. In *H Is for Hawk*, you will meet Mabel, not your typical bloodthirsty specimen, as she is trained to hunt like the goshawks of yore. It is this brash, slightly mad undertaking that wrenches Macdonald free from despair, and brings her to a place where she can begin again. Doesn't sound like your kind of thing? You'd be surprised. Macdonald's gorgeously wrought prose holds you in thrall from the first page, and provides something akin to the escape, and salvation, that nature provides her. In *H Is for Hawk* you will also learn about the famed Arthurian novelist T.H. White, a kindred soul to Macdonald in certain ways. One of the things that endeared him to her was his "childish delight with all things wild, something you'll be hard-pressed not to experience as soon as you tap into this tome." Erin Kodicek --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

\* Finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award\* Shortlisted for the Kirkus Prize in Nonfiction\* Finalist for the Andrew Carnegie Award in Nonfiction\* The Costa Book of the Year\* Winner of the Samuel Johnson Prize "Breathtaking . . . Helen Macdonald renders an indelible impression of a raptor's fierce essence; and her own; with words that mimic feathers, so

impossibly pretty we don't notice their astonishing engineering." #151;Vicki Constantine Croke, New York Times Book Review (cover review)"Helen Macdonald's beautiful and nearly feral book, *H Is for Hawk*, reminds us that excellent nature writing can lay bare some of the intimacies of the wild world as well. Her book is so good that, at times, it hurt me to read it. It draws blood, in ways that seem curative. . . . [An] instant classic." #151;Dwight Garner, New York Times"Extraordinary . . . indelible . . . [it contains] one of the most memorable passages I've read this year, or for that matter this decade . . . Mabel is described so vividly she becomes almost physically present on the page." #151;Lev Grossman, TIME"Captivating and beautifully written, it's a meditation on the bond between beasts and humans and the pain and beauty of being alive." #151;People (Book of the Week)"One of the loveliest things you'll read this year . . . You'll never see a bird overhead the same way again. A-" #151;Jason Sheeler, Entertainment Weekly"[A] singular book that combines memoir and landscape, history and falconry . . . it is not like anything I've ever read . . . what Macdonald tells us so eloquently in her fine memoir [is] that transformation of our docile or resigned lives can be had if we only look up into the world." #151;Susan Straight, Los Angeles Times"Had there been an award for the best new book that defies every genre, I imagine it would have won that too. . . . Coherent, complete, and riveting, perhaps the finest nonfiction I read in the past year." #151;Kathryn Schulz, New Yorker"The art of Macdonald's book is in the way that she weaves together various kinds of falling apart#151;the way she loops one unraveling thread of meaning into another. . . . What's lovely about [it] is the clarity with which she sees both the inner and outer worlds that she lives in." #151;Caleb Crain, New York Review of Books"One of the most riveting encounters between a human being and an animal ever written." #151;Simon Worrall, National Geographic"Assured, honest and raw . . . a soaring wonder of a book." #151;Daneet Steffens, Boston Globe"An elegantly written amalgam of nature writing, personal memoir, literary portrait and an examination of bereavement. . . . It illuminates unexpected things in unexpected ways." #151;Guy Gavriel Kay, Washington Post"To categorize this work as merely memoir, nature writing or spiritual writing would understate [Macdonald's] achievement . . . her prose glows and burns." #151;Karin Altenberg, Wall Street Journal"Dazzling." #151;Kate Guadagnino, Vogue"Unsparring, fierce . . . a superior accomplishment. There's not a line here that rings false; every insight is hard won . . . Macdonald has found the ideal balance between art and truth." #151;David Laskin, Seattle Times"One of the best books about nature that I've ever read. Macdonald's wonderful gift for language and her keen observations bring pleasure to every page." #151;Karen Sandstrom, Cleveland Plain Dealer"[With] sumptuously poetic prose . . . there

is deft interplay between agony and ecstasy, elegy and rebirth, wildness and domesticity, alongside subtle reminders about the cruelty of nature and our necessary faith in humanity." &#151;Malcolm Forbes, Minneapolis Star Tribune"One of a kind . . . Macdonald is a poet, her language rich and taut. . . . As she descends into a wild, nearly mad connection with her hawk, her words keep powerful track. . . . [She] brings her observer's eye and poet's voice to the universal experience of sorrow and loss." &#151;Barbara Brotman, Chicago Tribune"A heart-poundingly good read." &#151;Helen W. Mallon, Philadelphia Inquirer"H Is for Hawk is about attention: about seeing, hearing, touching, smelling, crying, screaming, raging . . . it is, in short, quite deliberately about reckoning with the wild within as well as without, as each informs, mimics, and illuminates the other." &#151;Dinah Lenney, Los Angeles Review of Books"A really beautiful book. It is a bit about death and loss. . . . It's about literature. It's about nature. She goes into so much detail. It's very rich." &#151;Philippa Gregory, Tampa Bay Times"Incandescent . . . glorious, passionate, and heartbreaking." &#151;Sy Montgomery, Orion"A wonderful, hard-to-classify, nonfiction chimera . . . this book grips at your heart." &#151;Rain Taxi"Written in limpid, allusive prose, H Is for Hawk is a significant contribution to the literature of the human encounter with the natural world." &#151;Sierra Club Magazine

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