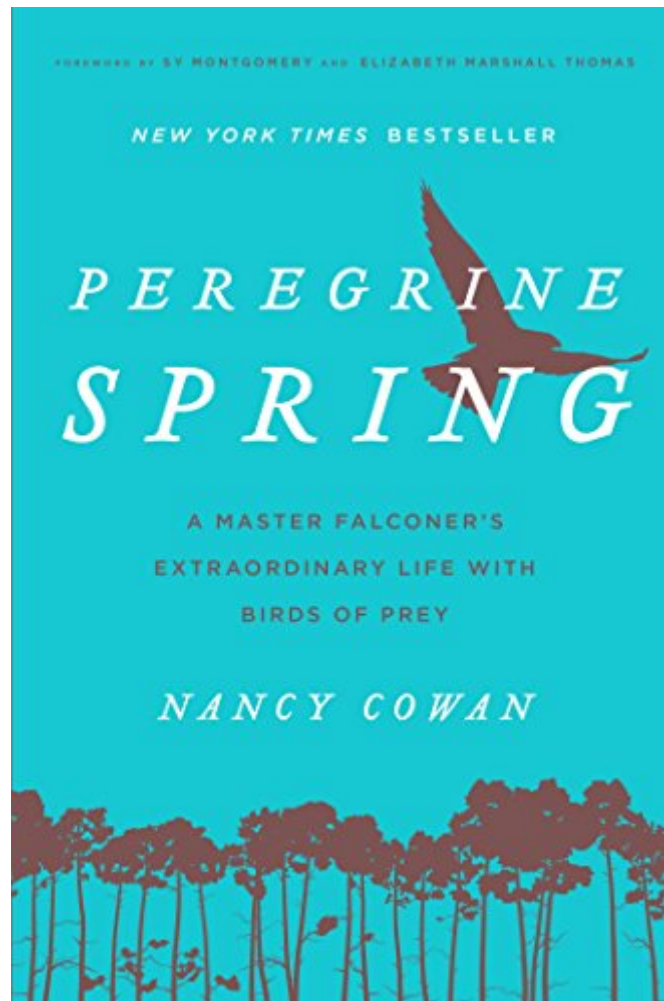


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Peregrine Spring: A Master Falconer's Extraordinary Life With Birds Of Prey



Synopsis

Peregrine Spring, Nancy Cowan's memoir of her thirty years living intimately with raptors, gives us a new perspective on the relationship between humans and the natural world. Cowan shares her experiences running a world-famous falconry school, and the lessons she's learned from her birds. From retrieving her falcon from the local police lock up, to finding her husband in bed with a gyrfalcon, to a heart-breaking race to save her young peregrine from attack by a wild hawk, Cowan's life is a constant, ever-changing adventure. Cowan's birds have immersed her so much into their world that she has found herself courted by a Goshawk and bossed about by a Harris Hawk. The book carries her readers along, so they, too, meet hawks and falcons in ways they never imagined possible.

Book Information

File Size: 6109 KB

Print Length: 297 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1493017705

Publisher: Lyons Press (March 1, 2016)

Publication Date: March 1, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01C7RN0JG

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #29,426 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #4 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Sports > Outdoors & Nature > Hunting & Fishing > Hunting #20 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Hunting & Fishing > Hunting #21 in Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Birds & Birdwatching > Field Guides

Customer Reviews

I've always been fascinated by stories that explore the unique bond between animals and humans, whether it's *Gorillas in the Mist*, *H is for Hawk*, or *Marley & Me* so I was excited to pick up *PEREGRINE SPRING*. If you are too, you will not be disappointed with this fun, informative, and

moving read into the fascinating world of falconry. In the very first pages, you come to understand that the human (definitely the second fiddle in this relationship) almost feels like they are soaring on the currents with their birds. The falcon/falconer bond is intense and full of joy as well as the inevitable heartbreak. The authors tales are heartwarming, sometimes quite funny and really open up a world that, at least for me, I knew nothing about. I'm hoping someone will buy me a session at Ms. Cowan's school so I can try this out myself!

As a resident of Deering, NH and a friend of the Cowans, I have to admit I only bought this book because it features local places and people. But I found it a fascinating story. Nancy is a great story-teller, and I especially enjoy her sense of humor, down-to-earth pragmatism, and the simplicity of her prose. The books reads as fiction at times, and Nancy draws you through a series of funny, hair-raising, and beautiful tales at a nice quick pace. I finished the book in a day and plan to go back and read it again soon.

This memoir by Nancy Cowan about raising and flying raptors is thrilling. Her relateable writing style gripped me quickly and charmed me completely. Throughout the book, I found myself laughing, crying, and holding my breath. Besides all the action, (there are flying sequences and hunts described so well they will take your breath away), I learned a lot about falconry and birds of prey. Thirty years of training raptors has lent Nancy keen insight into the instincts that drive the birds. She describes her mistakes as vividly as she describes her triumphs. Nancy doesn't romanticize the birds, raptors are not pets, but they are quite a batch of characters. I enjoyed meeting each bird. I highly recommend this book for would-be falconers, current falconers, animals-lovers, and anyone who enjoys full immersion into a lifestyle they will probably never lead themselves. This intimate memoir takes you into Nancy's living room, her marriage, her backyard, her countryside, and straight into her heart. Five stars!

Excellent description of life with raptors. Ms. Conant has authored may books previous to this one, making it extremely readable. In contrast to books by experts in their subject who are not primarily authors. Our sons are fascinated by raptors and share many factoids with us. This greatly expanded their knowledge.

I have been honored to know Nancy for years as a student on the wing. I am delighted to finally have on page some of her most memorable times with teaching and sharing the art of falconry. I

picked up this book and was engrossed from page one where she celebrates the beauty of a gyrfalcon to the last finishing line of embracing a peregrine spring. Her words fly off the page with a profound craft for describing perfectly the world of the winged creatures she has become a guardian of for decades. Without hesitation, I recommend this book for the avid nature lover, conservationist, aspiring falconry student, and those in awe of the raptor world. There are those who possess an ability to write and convey so eloquently their experience on a written page. There are fewer who can write on paper the 'knowingness' and intimacy of the human-bird-dog relationship. Nancy Cowan is a master steward in both. Her ability to articulate the ancient alliance and bond of bird and human is truly special. I am so grateful she shares such glimpses and chapters of her life through this book.

I really enjoyed this book. I love wildlife but have not had any experience with raptors. So, I learned a lot about the different birds the couple in the book have and also a lot of terminology about their work. It gives you a great respect for these birds and the people who devote their lives to them.

I have fallen in love with falcons this year having followed the Manchester ,NH peregrines since before they hatched. Nancy's book couldn't have come out at a better time. Her stories of these spirited, fearless and majestic birds are illuminating and unforgettable. A great read about the awesome and beautiful peregrine falcon.

Nancy Cowan has given a gift to us by providing a well-written encapsulation of her life as a master Falconer. She is a rare combination of writer and animal expert. This is the closest most of us will ever come to understanding and experiencing a attainable dangerous animal.

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