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Lift

By Rebecca K. O'Connor

Captivated by a chance meeting with a falconer's peregrine as a child, the indelible memory leads the author to flying a peregrine falcon of her own as an adult and discovering that the journey is not as much about training the falcon as what it is the falcon has to teach her. While bonding with this challenging hunting partner, O'Connor delves into her past and comes to terms with childhood neglect and abuse, reconnecting with her once absent mother and finding that all of her relationships can ultimately be as honest and strong as that of a falconer and her peregrine. Exploring themes of predator and prey, finding tribe, forgiveness and femininity, the memoir asks universal questions through a unique backdrop and a tempestuous love affair with a falcon.

American falconry is storied and complex as well, full of eccentric and compelling characters battling to keep their art legal and preserve the land required to practice it. *Lift* illustrates the beauty and meaning the sport adds to one falconer's life, echoing the challenges and triumphs of being human.

About the Author

Rebecca K. O'Connor has published essays in *South Dakota Review*, *Iron Horse Literary Review*, *Los Angeles Times Magazine*, *West*, and *divide*. Her novel, *Falcon's Return* was a Holt Medallion Finalist, and she has published numerous reference books on the natural world. She has an MFA in Creative Writing and Writing for the Performing Arts from the University of California, Riverside where she won the McQuern Fellowship for nonfiction. She has also been awarded fellowships to The Tomales Bay Writer's Workshops, Squaw Valley Writer's Workshops and San Juan Writers Workshops. O'Connor lives in Citrus Heights, California with her falcon, Anakin, and her Brittany spaniel, Booth.

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