



The Owl Who Liked Sitting on Caesar: Living with a Tawny Owl

By Martin Windrow

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The Owl Who Liked Sitting on Caesar: Living with a Tawny Owl By Martin Windrow

The story of an odd couple—a British military historian and the Tawny Owl with whom he lived for fifteen years

Martin Windrow was a war historian with little experience with pets when he adopted an owl the size of a corn cob. Adorable but with knife-sharp talons, Mumble became Windrow's closest, if at times unpredictable, companion, first in a South London flat and later in the more owl-friendly Sussex countryside. In *The Owl Who Liked Sitting on Caesar*, Windrow recalls with wry humor their finer moments as well as the reactions of incredulous neighbors, the awkwardness of buying Mumble unskinned rabbit at Harrods Food Hall, and the grievous sense of loss when Mumble nearly escapes.

As Windrow writes: "Mumble was so much a part of my life in those days that the oddity of our relationship seldom occurred to me, and I only thought about it when faced with other people's astonishment. When new acquaintances learned that they were talking to a book editor who shared a seventh-floor flat in a South London tower block with a Tawny Owl, some tended to edge away, rather thoughtfully . . . I tried to answer patiently, but I found it hard to come up with a short reply to the direct question 'Yes, but . . . why?'; my best answer was simply 'Why not?'"

Windrow offers a poignant and unforgettable reminiscence of his charmed years with his improbable pet, as well as an unexpected education in the paleontology, zoology, and sociology of owls.

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Editorial Review

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The sweetly smiling older gent on this book's jacket is seen inside in photos, too, but they depict a much-younger man, often with a little, stern owl perched on his shoulder. The tawny owl, Mumble, met her end too soon, and thus it took Windrow (*The Last Valley*, 2005) many years to put aside his sadness and pull together his notebooks and photos depicting their 15-year owl-man relationship, living together in England. Windrow has an endearing, entertaining voice, not without a sense of humor. He not only describes his relationship with the little owl ("love at first sight") but also gives owl history, the species' contemporary existence, precautions, and more. Windrow's journal entries from the time are scattered throughout, and they reveal his careful attention to Mumble's learning to "speak" and fly and adapt to her unusual life. Containing many photos as well as Christa Cook's beautifully detailed sketches, this is a gentle, touching love story that will appeal to all pet owners, not just those fond of tawny owls, which Windrow describes as "something like cats that can fly." --Eloise Kinney

Review

"Anyone who thinks the bond between man and dog or cat is the supreme human-house pet attachment will have to reconsider after reading Martin Windrow's touching account of the bird who changed his life, a possessive and characterful tawny owl named Mumble who was his domestic companion for 15 action-packed years . . . [*The Owl Who Liked Sitting on Caesar* is] a memoir of his friendship with this singular creature, interwoven with a natural history of her species and a close, not to say obsessive, description of her traits . . . [It] is all the more affecting because of its gruff understatement." ?*Liesl Schillinger, The New York Times Book Review*

"Unlikely books are often very endearing--this is one such book. An utterly charming work, perhaps best read at night when there are owls about." ?*Alexander McCall Smith, author of the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series*

"With a keen eye for the telling detail, Windrow has written an informative, tender and, yes, wise memoir on the blessed ties that bind people and their pets--one that should find a permanent perch on your shelf." ?*Jay Trafford, Richmond Times-Dispatch*

"Funny, touching and divertingly novel . . . [Windrow] has produced an homage to both a creature and its species that is almost Leonardo-like in its precision and spirit of curiosity. The result is nothing less than a small masterpiece of animal literature . . . [A] perfect book." ?*Ben Downing, The Wall Street Journal*

"Charming . . . Mr. Windrow's owl fascination knows no bounds." ?*Carmela Ciuraru, The New York Times*

"*The Owl Who Liked Sitting on Caesar* is pure joy. Martin Windrow shows us the essence of a wild animal in a story as informative as a scientific paper on the species *Strix aluco*, but much more fun to read. Owls are among the world's most interesting creatures, and to see one up close and in detail as we do here is a valuable experience that will appeal to readers of every kind." ?*Elizabeth Marshall Thomas, author of A Million Years with You: A Memoir of Life Observed*

About the Author

Martin Windrow is an English military historian and a long-time commissioning and art editor for Osprey Publishing. He is the author of numerous books of military history, including *The Last Valley*, a distinguished history of the French defeat in Vietnam. He lives in the Sussex Downs country of southern England.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Annette Puente:

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or their friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic inside park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Will you something different to fill your current free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book can be option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the reserve untitled *The Owl Who Liked Sitting on Caesar: Living with a Tawny Owl* can be very good book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

Anne Hahn:

Do you have something that you like such as book? The publication lovers usually prefer to pick book like comic, limited story and the biggest an example may be novel. Now, why not attempting *The Owl Who Liked Sitting on Caesar: Living with a Tawny Owl* that give your fun preference will be satisfied by reading this book. Reading routine all over the world can be said as the opportunity for people to know world better then how they react when it comes to the world. It can't be stated constantly that reading addiction only for the geeky individual but for all of you who wants to end up being success person. So , for all of you who want to start studying as your good habit, you could pick *The Owl Who Liked Sitting on Caesar: Living with a Tawny Owl* become your own starter.

Bruce Crawford:

This *The Owl Who Liked Sitting on Caesar: Living with a Tawny Owl* is great book for you because the content which can be full of information for you who else always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. This book reveal it information accurately using great arrange word or we can declare no rambling sentences included. So if you are read the idea hurriedly you can have whole details in it. Doesn't mean it only will give you straight forward sentences but tricky core information with splendid delivering sentences. Having *The Owl Who Liked Sitting on Caesar: Living with a Tawny Owl* in your hand like finding the world in your arm, info in it is not ridiculous just one. We can say that no guide that offer you world within ten or fifteen tiny right but this guide already do that. So , this is certainly good reading book. Hey there Mr. and Mrs. occupied do you still doubt which?

Johnny Cahill:

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family or just watching TV all day every day. You can have new activity to enjoy your whole day by studying a book. Ugh, ya think reading a book really can hard because you have to use the book everywhere? It all right you can have the e-book, bringing everywhere you want in your Touch screen phone. Like The Owl Who Liked Sitting on Caesar: Living with a Tawny Owl which is having the e-book version. So , try out this book? Let's see.

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