



The Hawk and the Dove

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14th century Yorkshire: the time of Chaucer. Father Peregrine is appointed Abbot of St Alcuin's Benedictine abbey. An arrogant, impatient man, a hawk trying hard to be a dove - his name in religion is "Columba" - he is respected, but not loved. A sudden, shocking act of violence changes everything. As the story unfolds, this community of monks, serious about their calling but as flawed and human as we are, come to love their ascetic but now vulnerable leader. They lived six centuries ago, yet their struggles are our own. Finding our niche; coping with failure; living with impossible people; and discovering that we are the impossible ones.

The Hawk and the Dove Details

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Author : Penelope Wilcock

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From Reader Review The Hawk and the Dove for online ebook

Joy C. says

Oooh, I loved this fine little book! I did not expect to love it so much, but I was delighted, inspired and challenged through the stories of the lives of Father Peregrine, Brother Tom, Brother Edward, Brother Theodore, Brother Andrew, etc, and their lives, their imperfections and struggles against temptation, yet their passionate love and commitment to Christ and desire to follow Him! Looking forward to reading more in 'The Hawk and the Dove' series. So good!

Damaskcat says

The stories in this collection feature the monks of a fourteenth century monastery in Yorkshire - St Alcuin. The stories are told by their mother to her daughters, one of whom finds the people in the stories dominate her thinking and day dreaming. I found them well written and entertaining even though in many ways they are morality tales. They show human nature at its best and at its worst and they show how it is possible to deal with the vicissitudes of life with dignity and humility.

As the book progresses we learn about the monks of St Alcuin. Father Peregrine - whose religious name is Columba but everyone feels his given name suits him better; his cousin, Brother Edward and a novice monk called Thomas. All have lessons to learn and the stories show how they do this. They are written in simple language so that children can understand them but they're also of relevance and interest to adults as all good stories are. I found them worthwhile reading and many of them made me smile and brought tears to my eyes. I received a free copy of this book from NetGalley for review.

Ruth says

This book was a lovely diversion from my current dark and tragic books of history I have been reading. This book was a story within a story. I loved the fact tragedy made Father Peregrine a better man. This book beautifully demonstrates grace and forgiveness which led to peace and happiness. Each person will face different struggles and both the giving and receiving of grace and forgiveness is a gift to both the person giving and the person receiving.

Joseph Rizzo says

This is a great book and I can see why it is one of my wife's favorite series of books. It is short and the format of short stories within a broader family storytelling framework, makes it a very simple read. It is one of those books that really make you think about deeper things, the things of God, and how we relate with people, and how we deal with suffering.

Lisa Johnson says

Title: The Hawk and the Dove (The Hawk and the Dove #1)

Author: Penelope Wilcock

Pages: 174

Year: 1990

Publisher: Lion Hudson

Melissa loves a good story and one day begs her mother to tell her one. Soon one becomes several and the stories that follow create teachable moments between a mother and her daughter. These stories are set in the early 1300s in a monastery in England. The main character is Father Columba or Father Peregrine as he is known by his monks behind his back. He arrives at the monastery to take the lead role as Abbot after the former Abbot dies a natural death of old age. When he arrives he is 45 years old, tough, demanding, but fair. He earns the respect of his monks, but not their affections. He holds himself away from much personal interaction. He appears somewhat aloof and standoffish.

After a while, tragedy strikes Father Peregrine and he is forced to become more dependent on and vulnerable to his fellow monks. This vulnerability and humility endears him to his monks and they grow to love him. His thorn to bear creates in him a new awareness of how he should treat others as Christ would treat them. He gives so much more of his heart now.

I absolutely loved the premise of the stories of Father Peregrine being handed down from generation to generation. This generation of telling begins with a mother passing the tales along to her young teenage daughter. The tales impart a wealth of spiritual truths as well as wisdom in dealing with human foibles, idiosyncrasies and sins against others. I was captivated by the tales of humility, complete reliance on God and reading about those who longed to be like Christ no matter the cost to themselves. I'll be reading the second book in the series next and can't wait to get started!

My rating is 5 stars.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received one or more of the products or services mentioned above for free in the hope that I would mention it on my blog. Regardless, I only recommend products or services I use personally and believe will be good for my readers. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255. "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

Other reviews can be read at <http://seekingwithallyurheart.blogspot...> Also follow me on Twitter @lcjohnson1988, FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/lisa.johnson...>

Jeni says

This was highly recommended to me by my mom and sister. It was not what I expected - a single novel - but rather a telling of short stories (in mostly chronological order) about an abbey in the early 1300's. I found the characters very believable and human. These monks had to deal with all the foibles of human nature just like everyone else, but chose to govern their emotions and reactions by the rules of the abbey, which meant such things as kneeling and asking forgiveness in front of someone you had sinned against. I found it very uplifting, insightful and even funny (I laughed out loud a few times).

There are two more books in this trilogy that I look forward to reading. This was a small book, and a quick read that I enjoyed a great deal.

Doug says

This for me was a wonderful story, two in one, one of the bits and pieces of a large catholic family growing

up and listening to the stories of their ancestors. The other, the main story, is of those ancient ancestors, monks, and how they lived, loved and served God, however imperfectly.

A wonderful story of family, faith, service and forgiveness.

Lynda Edwards says

I honestly don't know that I had any specific expectations going into this book. My interest was piqued by the description, and my curiosity about the monastic life led me to pick up the book in the first place, but I found myself quickly drawn in and fascinated by both the stories set at the monastery and those that take place within the family telling these stories.

Very rarely does life seem to go the exact way any of us expect it to, but we have to keep on marching forward and living this thing we call life. That is one of the biggest things I am taking away from this book. It doesn't matter if we live in a monastery or in the modern world, problems and challenges find us all. What does matter is how we face these things, and whether it makes us bitter or better. I find this to be a tremendous encouragement in my own life.

Another thing I enjoyed about this book is that it shows the power of words, both spoken to each other in the moment and those written for future generations. Empty words can be hurtful, even when they begin as simply thoughtless, while the honest and good point us on to something higher.

I would highly recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a good story. The sections are brief enough to squeeze into a busy day but they have enough meat to keep a reader thinking for a while, and it contains lots of grace-filled truth to both convict and encourage any believer in Christ.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher through The Book Club Network (bookfun.org) in exchange for this honest review. All of the opinions expressed are my own.

Megan Larson says

Wow! I really enjoyed this book. I think the correct term is "meta-tale," or a tale within a tale. The protagonist, Melissa, lives in the present, but the main focus of the book is on stories of 14th-century monks her mother tells her, which have been passed down through the generations of her family. Each tale has the feeling of a vignette, but they all hold together nicely. Whatever Melissa is facing in her everyday life, she can learn from and is encouraged by the lessons the brothers learned in their journeys of faith so long ago. As for Wilcock's treatment of the Christian faith, I found her very insightful. She deals with a wide spectrum of its elements--from faith through suffering, to gaining an eternal perspective, to loving one another despite faults, to the genuine application of theology to how we live each day. Of course, the biblical basis for the monastic lifestyle itself is a bit of a mystery to me, but that's another story!

The writing took a little getting used to, but as Christian fiction goes it was pretty good. Maybe it helped that Wilcock is British. :)

I do heartily recommend this book, and will read it again.

Alan Braswell says

I bought this book at a library sale. No idea what the book content.

Basically you are following this family where the mother at the end of long day, which is described a little, the mother begins telling stories to one of her daughter.

The stories take place in a monastery and involves the monks whose lives are like ours. They get upset, tired, bored, and whatever else tries the human soul. Underneath it all is a lesson in God's grace and what Jesus did for those like us and those monks.

Beth Withers says

I opted to read this book because it is the first in a series, and I knew I would be receiving the second one to review. I enjoyed the way this book was written. A mother passes down family stories to her daughter. They live in the 20th century, but the stories come from the 13th century and involve the brothers in a monastery. The chapters almost stand alone as short stories. There are lessons within each of the stories, but there are also glimpses into some interesting characters from the monastery. I do not know the intended audience of the book, but it seems to be a bit younger than I am, my only complaint. 2016 update - I reread the book because I have gotten the 7th book to review. I didn't trust my memory!

Mimi Kezer says

This book and it's companions in the series are my favorite books of all time. My husband and I read this title, when it first came out, while on a long road trip. He drove while I read aloud and at one point we had to pull off onto the shoulder so that we could weep and not do ourselves an injury in the process.

Insightful, compelling, funny, and marvelously well-written, these books give us characters that are authentic and memorable. Their struggles and victories become ours as their lives unfold with each other and with God.

Do yourself a huge favor and read this series!

Dede Warner says

I love this book. It hits a home run with an engaging plot, endearing characters, and beautiful use of words. I'd like to meet the author. What fun to find that she has written several "new to me" books in the series.

This is what Penelope wrote in her Amazon description: "My aim in writing is to make goodness attractive. I love simple human kindness and gentleness, and I am moved by human vulnerability. I am fascinated by the power that is within our grasp to lift one another up, to heal and strengthen and encourage each other - our power to bless." What's not to love about that??

She goes on, "In the novels I write, I think of the reader sitting down to enjoy a book, the door of their imagination open wide to allow the story in to influence and shape their spirit. I accept the responsibility that confers as a great privilege, and it is my intention that when you put down any book of mine at the end of

reading it, you will feel hopeful, peaceful and comforted, more ready to look on your fellow human beings with compassion and see their point of view."

Wow! And that's just what she does! The characters in her books become your friends, and you are inspired.

Kayla (BooksAndAllSorts) says

A beautiful tale of humility, kindness, and faith, *The Hawk and the Dove* tells the story of Melissa, who loves to hear stories of the monks of St Alcuin's Benedictine Abbey. The abbot, Father Columba, more commonly known as Father Peregrine, is a man who is slowly but surely learning to give up his pride and grow in love. As Melissa listens to the tales of the monks, each with different personalities, she learns from their mistakes and finds every day a little more exciting than the one before.

Molly Patterson says

When I first encountered *The Hawk and The Dove* I had no idea what to expect. I was going into it thinking the series of short stories might be trite and moralistic. While they are those things (especially for Melissa's mother to impart wisdom to her children) they are also compelling and endearing tales.

The setting in a 14th century Benedictine monastery is mysterious and dark but the stories bring to light the humanity of its inhabitants. The vignettes captured my heart and each character was so well thought out that I could imagine myself as one of them.

I highly encourage this quick and lovely (intriguing and brooding?) tome to one and all!
