



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

By Martin Windrow



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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 Strafford, 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:

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The e-book untitled The Owl Who Liked Sitting on Caesar: Living with a Tawny Owl is the guide that recommended to you to see. You can see the quality of the publication content that will be shown to an individual. The language that author use to explained their ideas are easily to understand. The writer was did a lot of investigation when write the book, hence the information that they share to your account is absolutely accurate. You also will get the e-book of The Owl Who Liked Sitting on Caesar: Living with a Tawny Owl from the publisher to make you considerably more enjoy free time.

Ross Jackson:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray you, why because this The Owl Who Liked Sitting on Caesar: Living with a Tawny Owl publication written by well-known writer who really knows well how to make book that could be understand by anyone who also read the book. Written with good manner for you, leaking every ideas and composing skill only for eliminate your own hunger then you still hesitation The Owl Who Liked Sitting on Caesar: Living with a Tawny Owl as good book not only by the cover but also with the content. This is one reserve that can break don't judge book by its deal with, so do you still needing yet another sixth sense to pick this specific!? Oh come on your reading sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to an additional sixth sense.

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