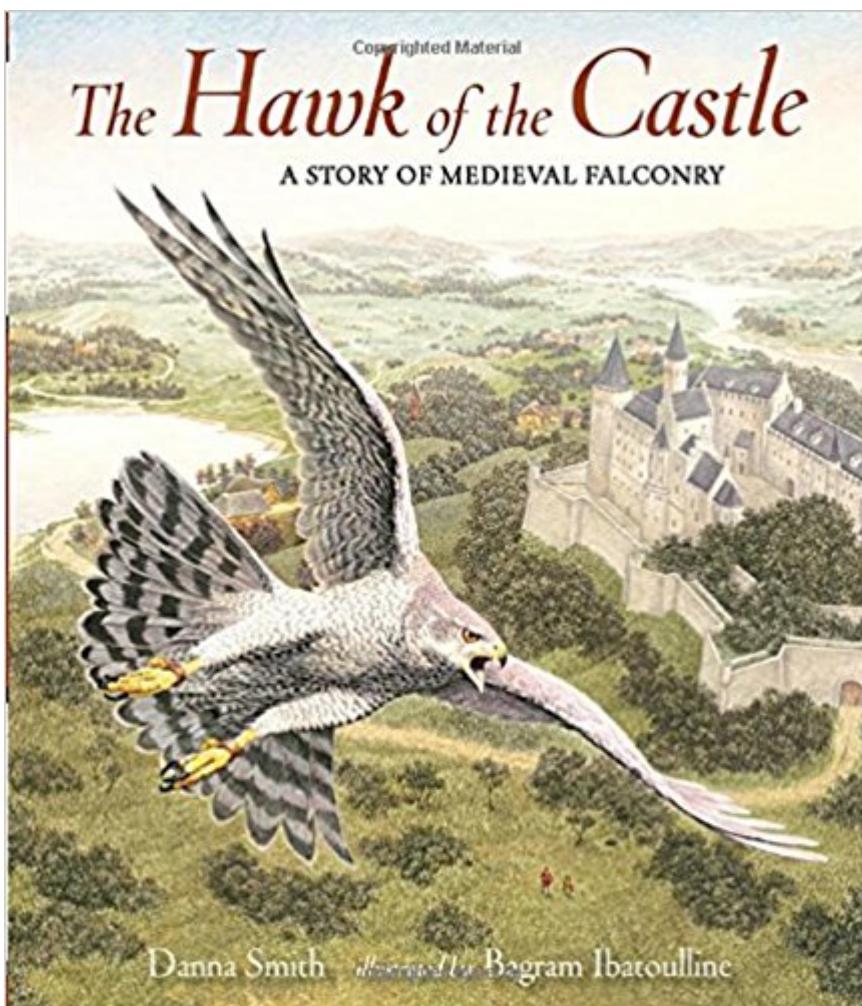


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# The Hawk Of The Castle: A Story Of Medieval Falconry



## **Synopsis**

Gentle verse and sweeping, majestic artwork set imaginations soaring in a handsome and illuminating ode to the ancient art of falconry. Join a young girl and her father, the falconer at a medieval castle, as they experience the joys of taking a goshawk out for a training flight. The girl leads readers through all the preparations and equipment needed for the flight — from the hawk's hood and bells to the falconer's gloves — culminating in a dramatic demonstration of the hawk's hunting skill. Bagram Ibatoulline's masterful illustrations capture the vivid details and beauty of a day spent hawking, while Danna Smith's poetic storytelling will make readers long to experience the art and sport of falconry firsthand.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 760 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Candlewick (April 11, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763679925

ISBN-13: 978-0763679927

Product Dimensions: 10.2 x 0.5 x 11.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #111,742 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Camping #27 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Medieval #289 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Birds

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

Ibatoulline invites you into his sweeping, realistic scenes with cleverly shifting perspectives. But perhaps most thrilling is a book with a castle featuring a girl who's curious and accomplished, with her social status and marital prospects blissfully beside the point. "The New York Times Book Review Ibatoulline's (*The Matchbox Diary*) stunningly realistic acrylic and gouache scenes illustrate from all angles, offering close-ups of the hawk, pastoral panoramas, and breathtaking aerial vistas... What young readers may appreciate most, though, is the story, beautifully presented, of the bonding between a daughter and father." *Publishers Weekly* (starred review) Ibatoulline's

stunning illustrations depict the father/daughter pair hunting and learning together in a landscape of brilliant color and detail...An imaginative and unique title to introduce elementary schoolers to hawks and falconry in a medieval settingâ "an ideal read-aloud selection, too.â "School Library Journal (starred review)Mr. Ibatoullineâ ™s fine, realistic pictures of castle, landscape and soaring predator have a wonderful feeling of sweep and drama. In small panels, Ms. Smith supplements her poetry with falconry facts and historical context.â "The Wall Street JournalA trained hawk serves as fierce centerpiece to broad, sweeping views of castle and countryside in this rhapsodic tribute to the craft of falconry...An idyllic picture of an ancient practice.â "Kirkus ReviewsThe fictional narrative gives the book structure, while the details of falconry add interest and purpose. In the authorâ ™s note, Smith tells of learning "the ancient sport" from her father, a falconer. A beautifully designed and illustrated volume.â "BooklistThe author presents the story in lyrical form and includes information boxes on each page, which goes into more detail about each subject...I would recommend this book for children in fifth grade, but it would be a nice read aloud for fourth graders. This book belongs in all libraries.â "School Library ConnectionIbatoullineâ ™s lush, painterly spreads work in harmony with the text, tantalizing viewers with visual details of the garb and accouterments (both birdâ ™s and falconerâ ™s) of the sport, and immediately supplying answers as quickly as a listener can formulate a question.â "Bulletin of the Center for Children's BooksAcclaimed artist Bagram Ibatoulline takes us back to medieval times with his glorious, detailed paintings in this fascinating story about falconry, as told by the young daughter of the falconer at a castle.â "Buffalo NewsHere a Northern California author writes with special affection for falconry...Both enthusiastic and knowledgeable about this ancient sport, Smith concludes with a caveat: "Birds of prey must always be treated with care and respect."â "San Francisco Chronicle

Danna Smith grew up with a father who was a falconer and was fortunate to learn about falconry from him. She is the author of a number of picture books. *The Hawk of the Castle* is her first book with Candlewick Press. Danna Smith lives in northern California. Bagram Ibatoulline has illustrated many acclaimed books for children, including *The Matchbox Diary* by Paul Fleischman; *On the Blue Comet* by Rosemary Wells; *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* and *Great Joy*, both by Kate DiCamillo; and *The Serpent Came to Gloucester* by M. T. Anderson. Bagram Ibatoulline lives in Chichester, New York.

This book on the history of falconry in medieval times is vividly and beautifully illustrated, and the story is adequately told. But the narrative falls short of presenting an engaging dialogue for younger

readers. Our bright 7-1/2 year old grandson was mildly interested in the illustrations but not so drawn into the text. It might have been a much stronger and memorable book if the author had created a fictional narrative based on her own experience with her father as a falconer, but instead simply chose to describe the various aspects of the sport.

This is an exceptional story about a little girl learning to fly with her dad, creating life long memories. Kids of all ages will love this book! It's one that should be added to your summer reading list!

Gorgeous artwork, which is why I bought it. The narrative is too advanced for small children and doesn't hold the interest of mine.

Journey back to medieval times in this nonfiction picture book about the skill of falconry. Told through the point of view of a young girl living in the castle, the text of the book is done in simple verse that hearkens back to traditional tales. Inset in each double-page spread is detailed information on falconry that shows the various parts of owning and caring for a hunting raptor. The book goes through all of the gear that is needed to own a falcon or hawk and then shows the hawk hunting for prey. Smith has created a gorgeous two-layered book where her light hand with the verse and its traditional format clearly anchors the story in medieval times. That plays against the information shared about falconry which is clear and matter-of-fact. The text makes sure that readers never mistake the hawk for a traditional pet and never misunderstand that the hawk has emotions about their owner. Ibatoulline's illustrations are gorgeous. Bordered in a traditional black-and-white hawk theme, they have a lovely formality about them that suits the subject well. The paintings offer a feel of the majesty of the hawk. As the bird takes to the air so do the illustrations allowing a feel of freedom and joy. This book truly soars, offering information for those wanting to know about falconry and a lovely poetic view as well. Appropriate for ages 6-8.

Words fly off the paper and become history, poetry in this delightful story of a young girl, her father and their falcon. It opens simply: "This is me. This is my father. This is our home, the castle." And as pages turn quickly, the reader soars through a castle while a young girl shares her long-ago life as the Falconer's daughter. The art is breath-taking, zooming along with the falcon as it flies across the pages. Sidebars offer fascinating facts about falconry, adding a level of learning that teachers, librarians and parents will appreciate. AMAZING BOOK! IT DESERVES AWARDS AND APPLAUSE!

I gave this book to my 7-year old daughter and we both love it. The illustrations are spectacular and the writing is well done. I love falconry and this book gets at the beauty of the sport.

Danna Smith's words sing across the pages of this book as if flying on the wings of this magnificent bird so well displayed in the artwork of Bagram Ibatoullie. With explanations neatly tucked into boxes one can both read the story and go back and study the workings of mid-evil falconry. This book is one to be treasured.

Great story and beautiful illustrations.

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