



## On the Far Side of the Mountain

*By Jean Craighead George*

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### **On the Far Side of the Mountain** By Jean Craighead George

Two years ago, Sam ran away from New York City to live in the Catskill Mountains. Now his younger sister Alice has joined him and is quietly living in a tree house of her own nearby. Their peaceful life is shattered when a conservation officer confiscates Sam's falcon, Frightful, and Alice suddenly vanishes. Sam leaves his home to search for Alice, hoping to find Frightful, too. But the trail to the far side of the mountain may lead Sam into great danger.

"Surpasses the original in style and substance . . . This story [is] a jewel."

—**Booklist**

"George has outdone herself here."

—**Kirkus Reviews**

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## **On the Far Side of the Mountain** By Jean Craighead George Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

Life in the wilderness has just become a lot thornier for young Sam Gibley. For the last two years he's been living in a hollowed-out tree in the Catskill Mountains, hunting and gathering his food supply and befriending the critters in his "neighborhood." Sam's peaceful existence is abruptly shattered when an environmental conservation officer confiscates his peregrine falcon, Frightful. To make matters worse, Sam's sister Alice, who has been living with him for the past year, has disappeared. This double blow quickly puts Sam on the trail to the far side of his mountain, pursuing a multifaceted mystery that, ultimately, will force him to make the biggest decision of his life.

Thirty years after the publication of her Newbery Honor Book, *My Side of the Mountain*, Jean Craighead George rewarded her many fans with an exciting sequel. This remarkable author of over 80 books and recipient of more than 20 literary awards (including the Newbery Medal for *Julie of the Wolves*) is a passionate advocate for the environment. Her knack for naturalist writing that crackles with life will have readers of all ages chomping at the bit for the third novel in her trilogy, *Frightful's Mountain*. (Ages 9 to 12)  
--Emilie Coulter

### From Publishers Weekly

Fans of *My Side of the Mountain* will be delighted to find that Sam Gibley still lives in a hollow tree with Frightful, his faithful falcon. Sam has neighbors now: his sister Alice lives in a nearby treehouse and his old friend Bando has bought a nearby cabin. Sam's summer plans are disrupted when a conservation officer accuses him of harboring an endangered species and confiscates Frightful. Sam is so devastated by the loss of his companion that several days pass before he realizes that Alice has left home. Setting out to track his sister down, Sam crosses paths with a band of falcon smugglers and is given the chance to take back Frightful for his own. Faced with a difficult decision, Sam chooses wisely and the story ends on a satisfying note, full of hope for the future. Since nature has become chic in the years since Sam's first adventures were published, sophisticated readers will enjoy the author's wry references to the new fashion for Adirondack furniture and her description of an eatery that specializes in gourmet wild foods. Filled with accurate details (it is possible to trace Sam's journey on a map), likeable characters and plenty of backwoods lore, this sequel is worthy of its predecessor. Ages 8-12.

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### From School Library Journal

Grade 4-6-- More than 30 years later, the story of Sam Gibley is resumed shortly after it ended in *My Side of the Mountain* (Dutton, 1988). When Frightful, the falcon, is confiscated and Sam's sister Alice disappears, Sam and his friend Bando look for her. In their search, they uncover a ring of illegal falcon dealers and come to terms with their limits and responsibilities as individual humans within the larger society of all mountain dwellers. Using a straightforward, first-person narrative and journal entries, George effectively evokes the natural setting with which she is obviously familiar. She also takes great care to describe the devices Sam and Alice construct to make their serene yet rugged life easier. These contraptions are complicated, but are clarified by black-and-white sketches. Sam remains the focus of the novel, but characters are abundant in contrast to his earlier solitary lifestyle. Unfortunately, they play mainly as a catalyst for Sam's actions and development. While their presence injects a note of reality, it also underscores the incredibility of the story, for the more contact Sam has with civilization, the more remarkable his living situation becomes. The plot is considerably more complicated than in the first book, and current issues are raised, but the timelessness of theme and setting is carried over from the original. The contrivance of the

black-market bird dealer may serve as a device to engage readers' interest, but the strength of the story lies in Sam's personal observations and growth. This volume can be enjoyed without the background laid in the first book, and it will inspire many readers to investigate the beginning of Sam's story. --Starr LaTronica, North Berkeley Library, CA  
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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Bobby Phillips:**

This On the Far Side of the Mountain book is not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book is usually information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get info which is getting deeper you actually read a lot of information you will get. This On the Far Side of the Mountain without we comprehend teach the one who studying it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't become worry On the Far Side of the Mountain can bring any time you are and not make your case space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it in your lovely laptop even mobile phone. This On the Far Side of the Mountain having fine arrangement in word and layout, so you will not experience uninterested in reading.

#### **Judith Tate:**

Reading can called brain hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book especially book entitled On the Far Side of the Mountain your head will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each aspect that maybe unfamiliar for but surely might be your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a book then become one form conclusion and explanation this maybe you never get ahead of. The On the Far Side of the Mountain giving you a different experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful info for your better life with this era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern is your body and mind will be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a sport. Do you want to try this extraordinary investing spare time activity?

#### **Carl Kile:**

This On the Far Side of the Mountain is great publication for you because the content and that is full of information for you who have always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. This kind of book reveal it data accurately using great arrange word or we can say no rambling sentences in it. So if you are read the item hurriedly you can have whole facts in it. Doesn't mean it only offers you straight forward sentences but challenging core information with attractive delivering sentences. Having On the Far Side of the Mountain in your hand like getting the world in your arm, info in it is not ridiculous one particular. We can say that no publication that offer you world throughout ten or fifteen moment right but this book already do that. So , this really is good reading book. Hi Mr. and Mrs. hectic do you still doubt that will?

**Darron Hiller:**

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