



## Shayne Clarke

A common question falconers get is, “How did you get into this?”

It’s a similar question to what drug addicts get asked on their first day of treatment. Many of us trace our roots back to our reading of *My Side of the Mountain*, written by Jean Craighead George. It’s a story of a kid who runs away from Manhattan and lives in the Adirondacks. He lives off the land with the help of a peregrine falcon he trains. I was a wide-eyed, ten-year-old kid in Idaho, when I absorbed *My Side of the Mountain*. My mind was alive with possibilities of having a falcon or hawk of my very own. Within the year, I had read everything the library had on falconry and gotten my first hawk.

Over the past 50 years, my mind has remained very alive with memories of a life with falcons and visions of memories I still want to make. I make no claim that I have mastered falconry. Proof of this will be evident soon enough as you read on, but falconry has to a certain extent mastered me.

Writing is an equal passion with falconry. Arranging words in an order that amuses at least me and hopefully someone else is worth the effort. I focused on writing as an English major in college and went on to get a master’s degree in creative writing. I’ve been a freelance writer for a lifetime and taught management communications at the university level for 17 years as an adjunct professor.

Enjoy!

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