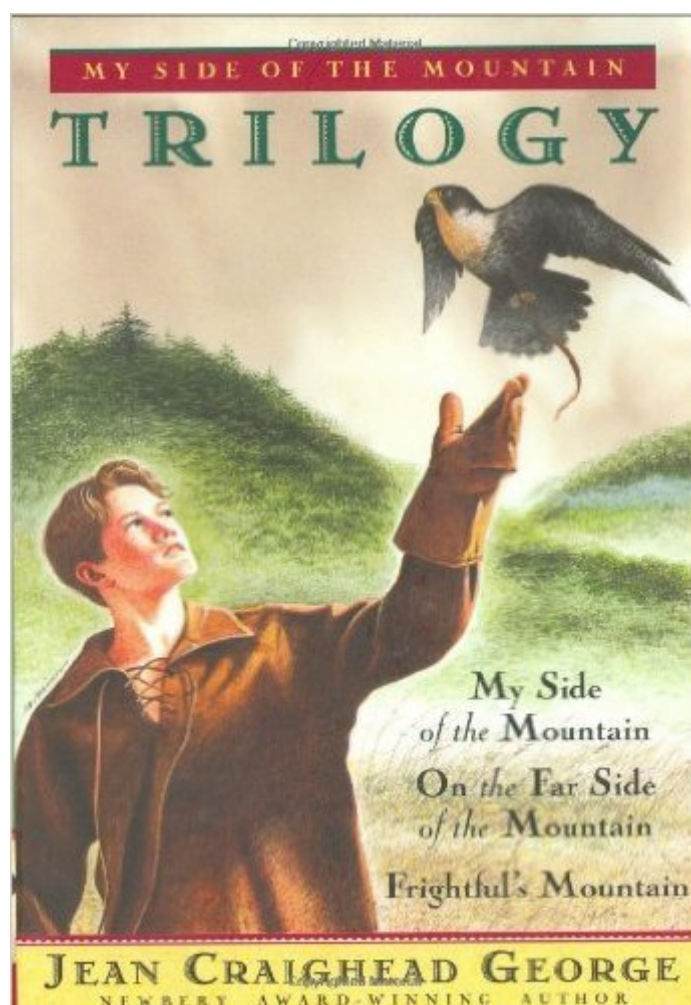


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# My Side Of The Mountain Trilogy (My Side Of The Mountain / On The Far Side Of The Mountain / Frightful's Mountain)



## Synopsis

In 1959, Jean Craighead George published *My Side of the Mountain*. This coming-of-age story about a boy and his falcon went on to win a Newbery Honor, and for the past forty years has enthralled and entertained generations of would-be Sam Gibleys. The two books that followed--*On the Far Side of the Mountain* and *Frightful's Mountain*--were equally extraordinary. Now all three books are available in one deluxe yet affordable volume for veteran devotees and brand-new fans alike.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 628 pages

Publisher: Dutton Books for Young Readers; First Edition, First Printing edition (October 23, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0525462694

ISBN-13: 978-0525462699

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 2.1 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (147 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #12,558 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) [#37 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Short Story Collections](#) [#270 in Books > Children's Books > Classics](#) [#857 in Books > Children's Books > Action & Adventure](#)

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

Jean Craighead George's *MY SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN* is, quite simply, a masterpiece of children's literature. Almost half a century after its original publication, it is now available in this gorgeous hardcover edition, along with its two stunning sequels, *ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN* and *FRIGHTFUL'S MOUNTAIN*. Wendell Minor, illustrator of two of Ms. George's classic *JULIE OF THE WOLVES* books and many splendid picture books, has done the cover, and Ms. George herself did the fine line drawings for the three books. However, the true beauty of the volume lies with the words that grace its pages. In the first book, Sam is a young teenager who is tired of living in his crowded New York City apartment and steals away to the Catskill Mountains to live in seclusion among nature. There, he burns out a tree to make it his cozy home, learns about wild foods and how to find them, and captures a young peregrine falcon, Frightful, to train to hunt for

him. The first book was written in the past tense from Sam's point of view, and is filled with details and entries from Sam's journal. Ms. George manages, in her usual way, to tell about and inspire readers about nature, without sentimentalizing it, and to develop young characters without underestimating them. The journal entries are written just as a kid would write them, in simple, yet interesting text. In fact, many readers have been led to believe that a thirteen-year-old boy actually did write the book. MY SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN won a Newbery Honor (later Ms. George was to be awarded a Newbery Medal for her truly magnificent JULIE OF THE WOLVES). The second book, ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN, is written, even more effectively, in the present tense, as Sam finds his way into more exciting adventures.

Granted, there are still some places like the one imagined by Craighead in My Side of the Mountain, and there are some boys and girls out there who still explore in the woods, some parents who allow their kids to spend the night out there, but this book, like Thoreau's, is much more important for kids (and parents) who have no real wilderness in their lives. Unlike so many young persons' books these days, which try so hard to help readers through difficult times (divorce, peer-pressure, death of loved ones) in predictable, heavy-handed ways, the premise of this book is not dramatic. The young narrator is just tired of the city (not in any committed political way), and more importantly tired of living in a large family in a small space. When he says he's going to run away to find the spot where his grandfather once had a farm in the mountains, his family ignores him--his father dares him to do it, and he takes the dare. Granted, there's a bit of drama here and there (his capture and training of the young falcon is more than improbable), but mostly the book is content to chronicle the boy's slow growth--not from some tenderfoot to a fully capable survivor (the story of "Hatchet")--but from a boy who knows something about nature from books to a boy who figures out, through his experience of nature, something new about himself and his relation to other people and the world. Here Craighead is above all PATIENT--able to chronicle the pace of a life that puts into question much of what kids and their parents might consider "normal" interests, or attachments, or social behavior.

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