



## Wild Geese

*Mary Oliver*

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An anthology, this book's title poem, Wild Geese, opened Staying Alive.

## **Wild Geese Details**

Date : Published October 28th 2004 by Bloodaxe Books

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Author : Mary Oliver

Format : Paperback 160 pages

Genre : Poetry, Environment, Nature, Nonfiction, Contemporary

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## From Reader Review Wild Geese for online ebook

### Roxanne says

A compilation of previous works. Good stuff, although the pieces chosen were not my favorites.

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### Reem ♥ says

Whoever you are,  
No matter how lonely the world offers itself to your imagination,  
Calls to you like the wild geese,  
Harsh and exciting  
Over and over announcing your place in the family of things.

♥

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### Seren says

There should be a word for the particular kind of sadness you feel when, a week after reading what you know will become your favourite poem, you find out the woman who wrote it just died.

I've never been a massive fan of traditional nature poetry (sorry Wordsworth), being more of a here's-my-bleeding-heart-on-a-plate-poetry kind of girl. Mary Oliver, though, is the exception to my rule. I just, I don't know how to describe her writing in a way that would do it justice. Her poetry isn't complex but it's beautiful, every description unique but utterly fitting. It's the type of poetry that's best appreciated while reading outdoors, but if you're lazy like me then it can also be best read half leaning out your window, feet on the radiator, tea in hand.

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### Liza says

Sometimes when I was about to read a little bit of this I didn't think I was in the right mental space for it but almost all of those times Mary coaxed me in and then I read much more than a little bit. I love how she writes, I love how her words are sparse and lush at the same time. Amazing writer. Her poetry makes me feel centred and happy and safe.

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### Janey says

Lovely, lovely poetry...

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## **Pempi says**

Really connected with this author's poetry - mainly about the natural world and our place within it. Poems to really savour and enjoy - excellent.

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## **Myrna Minkoff says**

This may be my favorite contemporary poet. "Wild geese, harsh and exciting..."

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## **Priya Bhakta says**

Gorgeous poems about the natural world and what it means to us. A book which leaves you feeling so optimistic.

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## **Molly Miltenberger says**

Radiant!

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## **Gemma Innes says**

Feels really nice to finish my first poetry book of the year. Will take a few weeks to get a more in depth review up on my blog. For now let me say that Mary Oliver is fast becoming a favourite poet of mine. Her world view is refreshingly in depth yet humble and resonates somewhat with my own. I enjoy the flow and structure of her work and hope to read more in the future.

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## **Siobhán Mc Laughlin says**

A Bible of the beautiful. This collection of poems will make you fall in love with the world, as simple (and as staggering) as that.

Acclaimed American poet Mary Oliver has written here a tour-de-force of tender praise for the flora and fauna around us. Every poem sings with the soul of someone who not only believes in beauty, but pursues it within everything and everywhere with a startling intensity. The world glitters and shines in her poetry. Awe, realisation and appreciation of the world we live in is its theme; the natural world in all its diversity (- from snakes to swans, birds, flowers, waterfalls and dogs) its subject matter; and language as serene as a still lake, as striking as a sunset, as beautiful and fragile as petals unfolding and as quiet and steady as a heartbeat - its modus of astounding.

A good poem offers us a new way of looking at the world, but Mary Oliver's poems will change your way of

looking completely. As one reviewer puts it, 'her poetry reads like a blessing'. And that's exactly how we feel while reading it. It puts everything in perspective, as good poetry does, and imbues the reader with the real sense that life is a gift. Its lilting balm of words will put peace to nagging modern problems, trivial testing concerns and any headspun webs of worry, for this, is poetry of the heart, the soul, in all its truth-bursting luminous wonder.

Perhaps she herself describes her style best when remarking in one poem: 'Every day I walk out into the world/to be dazzled, then to be reflective' - this is what she offers us in this collected edition: dazzlement, the significance of it, and by proxy, the means to achieving it.

Extraordinarily hopeful, beautiful, transcendental. 5 stars, every poem, everytime.

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### **Simon says**

There's one poem in this book that I come back to, called Little Owl Who Lives in the Orchard.

His beak could open a bottle,  
And his eyes - when he lifts their soft lids -  
Go on reading something  
Just beyond your shoulder -  
Blake, maybe,  
Or the Book of Revelation

....  
Never mind that he is only a memo  
from the offices of fear -  
It's not size but surge that tells us  
When we're in touch with something real

The best of Mary Oliver is that kind of imaginative, instinctive response to the natural world. It inspires terrific imagery and the satisfying music of the opening stanza.

The worst is that lecturing voice of the last 2 lines which unfortunately is prevalent. Oliver likes to tell rather than show, and despite being about the natural world her poems usually have the words 'you', 'I' or 'we' in them.

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### **Tineke says**

One of the best things I have read in my life!

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### **Emma says**

I didn't like all of these poems but the ones I did I really loved, so beautiful beyond words.

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## Caroline says

This is a wonderful book. With fresh sparse prose and unerring insight, Mary Oliver's writing conveys the sort of connection with nature that Wordsworth writes about experiencing as a child – except with Oliver the feeling stays with her always. She writes with a haunting brilliance...

The face of a moose is as sad  
As the face of Jesus

.....

....the sea  
Which was slashing along as usual,  
Shouting and hissing  
Toward the future

.....

.....the hummingbird comes  
like a small green angel, to soak  
his dark tongue  
in happiness –

But not only does she write about nature – entwined with her wonderful observations of animals, birds and the countryside, are insights into the human condition – our experiences of life, death, joy and bitterness.....  
It's all there.

If you want to get a flavour of this woman's marvellous work, here is a link to her reading three of her poems. (It really is a wonderful reading.)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnaP7i...>

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