

A Pocket Guide to Pigeon Watching: Getting to Know the World's Most Misunderstood Bird

Rosemary Mosco

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Urban bird lovers will love Rosemary Mosco's *Pocket Guide to Pigeon Watching*, an exuberant, insightful, and enchanting book that shows appreciation for the natural world. It may even appeal to nature-loving teenagers—if they can handle a few juicy pigeon sex scenes.

With breezy chapter titles like “the passion and the poop” and “pigeonatomy,” the book is packed with information on the birds' history, diet, physiology, genetic variations, and behaviors, all while addressing common misconceptions. Colorful illustrations with whimsical captions explain everything from “a rainbow of plumage possibilities” to “how to speak pigeon.”

These intelligent, resourceful, loyal creatures have been loved and admired throughout history by leaders like Akbar and Queen Victoria. Infatuated, Darwin said that meeting a pigeon is “the greatest treat” that “can be offered.” Heroic passenger pigeons—including the beloved one-legged Cher Ami, Paddy, and Winkie—bravely served their nation and saved countless lives during wartime.

So joyful that it's almost effervescent, *A Pocket Guide to Pigeon Watching* will convert even the grumpiest pigeon skeptics into being, at the very least, pigeon curious. Readers will never hear the cooing in a city park or watch a preening flock of pigeons the same way again.

KRISTEN RABE (September / October 2021)

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