

Title: *The Faithless Hawk*
Author: Margaret Owen
Genre: Fantasy

Reviewer Name and Grade: Yujay A., 10th Grade

Date Reviewed: July 23, 2021

The Faithless Hawk picks up where *The Merciful Crow* left off, with Fie leading her own band of Crows. Fie now has a guard of Hawks who travel with her band and fight off Oleanders and other Hawks because of Master General Draga, and has thousands of powerful Phoenix teeth. Fie gives mercy to an elite peacock girl around her age named Niemi, who says Crows were made as a punishment to the rest of Sabor. One day, every village in Sabor has smoke rising, which signals the death of the King. It is likely that the evil Queen Rhusana was the cause, which the Crows suspect. Rhusana wants to rule Sabor and rid the nation of Crows. Pa, Fie's father, is getting old and is going to retire in a Crow shrine, which are sanctuaries that only Crows know of. Fie and Pa go to one of the main Crow shrines to speak to a reborn god named Little Witness. Little Witness ominously tells Fie that she must fulfill her Covenant oath and that she is not who she thinks she is. Fie finally leaves Pa, who is left to take care of Gen-Mara's shrine. When Fie goes to answer a beacon, she finds Oleanders harassing another band of Crows. Fie uses her Phoenix teeth and the Hawks to fight off the group and the other band is grateful. However, they steal all her Phoenix teeth in the middle of the night and run away. Fie feels hopeless without her Phoenix teeth but continues to answer plague beacons. When she arrives at a village, she discovers that the arbiter refused to call Crows and tried to clean up the plague victims himself. This resulted in the entire village catching the plague. The arbiter did not call Crows because the Queen falsely claimed that the plague could be contained by burning the bodies without needing Crows. Suddenly, all the dead bodies turn into skin ghosts controlled by Rhusana. Fie needs to use her last Phoenix teeth to fight the ghost off but it isn't enough. Tavin appears to save the day and uses his Phoenix birthright to stop the Ghosts. Tavin brings the Crows to Jasimir, but on the way, they find out that one of Fie's Hawks has been spying on Fie. A series of events occur, resulting in a shocking betrayal which puts Rhusana in position to take complete power over Sabor and destroy all the Crows. Fie must expose Rhusana's crimes and prevent her from putting an end to the Crows. During her mission, Fie learns shocking information about her past and Sabor's past that will change the nation forever.

Did the plot (for fiction) or presentation of information (for nonfiction) keep you interested?

The plot of *The Faithless Hawk* was definitely engaging and there was a lot of action. There were many plot twists which kept the plot interesting.

Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right?

The pace of the book was just right, as it was slow enough to fully understand the plot, while not being boring and having a fast enough pace to keep me interested.

What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for?

This book is appropriate for grade levels 9 and up because there is violence and some strong language.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to?

I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys fantasy or who wants to read an extremely suspenseful novel.

What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book?

This novel has many flashbacks and is told in the third person. It is the sequel to the *Merciful Crow* novel.

I would rate *The Faithless Hawk* 5 stars as it was an extremely well written novel and one of the best fantasy books I have read. There was a lot of action and suspense, which made the plot very engaging. The characters were relatable and there were many plot twists. It also used fantasy to address privilege and discrimination. Overall, the novel was captivating and very fun to read. I would definitely recommend this book to anyone looking for a good fantasy novel.