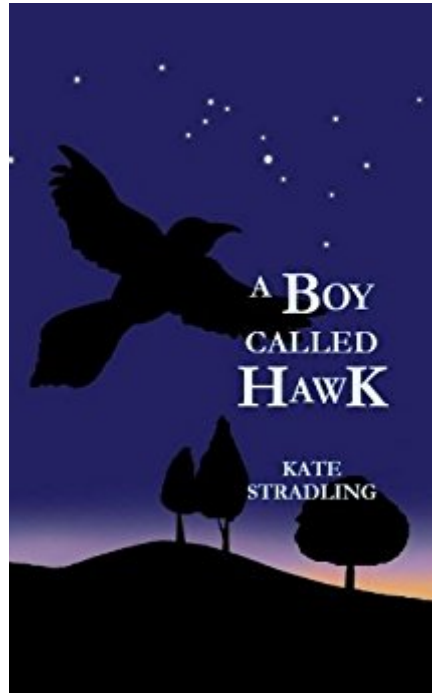




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A Boy Called Hawk



Synopsis

When four gifted children escape from the government-run Prometheus Institute, it's up to their classmate, 10-year-old Oliver Dunn, to bring them back. Unfortunately for him, Hawk, Hummer, Honey, and Happy West did not leave on a whim, and they have no intention of returning quietly. With the help of the powerful Government-Civilian Alliance, Oliver and his handler Emily must track down the truants before they can wreak havoc across the southwestern United States. Submit now, dear children. The state demands it.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Fun story set in a future USA, with interesting twists on dystopia. The main characters include four "gifted" siblings who escape their special schools, and a gifted boy and his "handler" who are trying to help the government recapture them. This book is deceptively simple in style, but the character development and interaction is engrossing. Not my favorite of Stradling's books (not all that fond of dystopians), but I haven't yet read one I wouldn't highly recommend!

While not a 5-star classic, this was a very solid read for what I expect is a first or early novel. It lacks the gross mistakes and ineptitudes present in similarly marketed (or self-published or first) books, instead presenting a very readable and entertaining escape. The dialog is almost natural, the characters largely believable and likeable (or hateable, depending on their roles), and the plot required no big suspensions of disbelief. My minor criticism character-wise involves Oliver, who has a limited vocabulary for a genius (I think a "real" Oliver would come up with words more descriptive than the constant use of "idiot"). The agents, too, are a little one-dimensional and too-uniformly cranky. I did like that there was no gratuitous violence or swearing. It wasn't needed and would have detracted from the book. All in all a good book, and I've purchased the second one as well. And no, I'm not the author's sibling, grandparent, parent, friend, co-worker, plumber, veterinarian, or bookie.

An addictive read. Characters endearing. Plot intriguing. Execution - flawless. Couldn't put it down. I am not a fan of dystopian fiction but this story was so carefully thought out that I suspect she has given us a glimpse of our future.

I really enjoyed this short novel. I will be recommending it to my 12 year old granddaughter as well! Ms. Stradling has wonderful writing skills and a great futuristic imagination.

I believe a Boy called Hawk should have 5 stars because it's a fun read that keeps you going to see what happens next. It's very creative and left me wondering.

Our book club selected this book for the month of April and all who read it enjoyed it. It was fun to read, not too heavy, but also gave us something to think about. The characters were developed well enough to cause the reader to care about them and we are all anxious to find out what happens to these children.

Enjoyed story and authors writing style. Intertwined with importance of family versus gov't control. Read it in a day or two.

The author has written an engaging novel, with characters that become more likable as the story progresses. I have two major complaints, however: (1) Anachronisms: the story takes place "in the second decade of the 21st century," and yet much of the technology is late 20th century. (A) An

email message is sent from a university without any attempt to obfuscate its origin, a trivial task for pimply script kiddies, not to speak of super-bright child prodigies. (B) "We don't have the manpower to look over all the footage" Ubiquitous video feeds can be automatically scanned using gait analysis or similar techniques: no need for Hollywood stereotypes of kids who outsmart incompetent adults by looking at videos one-by-one or happen to notice a pile of books lying on the floor.(2) More serious, the book ends somewhat abruptly, with no warning. The children are riding a train to an unknown destination, speculating about where they might end up. That's it.

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