

# The Gifts of Reading

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From the acclaimed author of *The Old Ways* and *Landmarks* -- an essay on the joy of reading, for anyone who has ever loved a book Every book is a kind of gift to its reader, and the act of giving books is charged with a special emotional resonance. It is a meeting of three minds (the giver, the author, the recipient), an exchange of intellectual and psychological currency, that leaves each participant enriched. Here Robert Macfarlane recounts the story of a book he was given as a young man, and how he managed eventually to return the favour, though never repay the debt. From one of the most lyrical writers of our time comes a perfectly formed gem, a lyrical celebration of the transcendent power and humanity of the given book.

Robert Macfarlane is the author of *Mountains of the Mind*, *The Wild Places*, *The Old Ways*, *Landmarks*, and *The Lost Words*, co-created with Jackie Morris. *Mountains of the Mind* won the Guardian First Book Award and the Somerset Maugham Award and *The Wild Places* won the Boardman-Tasker Award. Both books have been adapted for television by the BBC. *The Lost Words* won the Books Are My Bag Beautiful Book Award and the Hay Festival Book of the Year. He is a Fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and writes on environmentalism, literature and travel for publications including the Guardian, the Sunday Times and The New York Times.

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#### Other Books

*The Gifts of Life*, *What are The Gifts of Life?* Inside this book hides a magical world that is celebrating something special! It's that time of year where every major city gathers for another Ascension Day. But this year it's different. Inside, awaiting and resting, are Perry's powers. On this day, he, his friends and everyone else who lives and breathes, can use their powers through the ceremony of a godlike light. But this day is different! Inside the White City there is an evil army. After the destruction of his home, Perry finds himself lost with his best friend, his sister and their servant, Bailey, an Ever who leads them to safety. Outside, on their journey, the group is forced to use their powers. But as time fades, so does their humanity! Releasing their gifts of life to the world, only leads to mutation. And what was, may never be, but this time it's different! From the plains of the White City, Kelton Whide, to the forest of the Green City, Everbreen, nature takes its course. And where the Panda talks, a Masked Man mumbles and many white orchids turn to red, what is sacrificed inside this book leaves this magical world truly in awe!

? ? ? ? ? . *What are The Gifts of Life?* Inside this book hides a magical world that is celebrating something special! It's that time of year where every major city gathers for

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