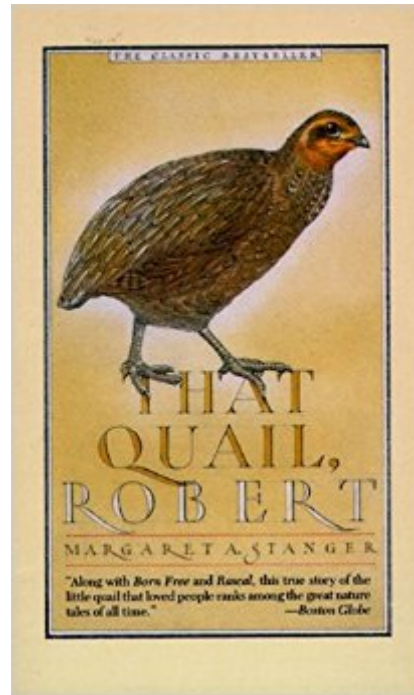


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# That Quail, Robert



## Synopsis

The perennially bestselling and acclaimed classic of the little bird who preferred human companionship to other quail.

## Book Information

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: William Morrow Paperbacks; Reissue edition (August 3, 1992)

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (147 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Who would have thought that from an abandoned quail's egg so much personality and affection would hatch out? Yet that is precisely what happened on Cape Cod back in 1962, as chronicled with love and honesty by the author. What happens when the human world becomes a substitute for Nature? Is the orphaned wild creature better off with its own kind, or with an adoptive family of a different species? Readers must judge for themselves in this charming tale about a delightful female quail, misnamed Robert. Written with humor and pathos by an observant neighbor, who became Robert's Aunt and longterm hostess, this slim volume is a gem about surprising family adjustments. Human emotions seem to have rubbed off on this impressionable birdling, who rapidly becomes a member of the family--even to requiring babysitters. You will chuckle and weep over her antics and trials. How human can a bird get? Once you spend some quality time with personable and endearing Robert, you will know the truth for yourself!

That's what "That Quail, Robert" amply demonstrates. Although ornithologists apparently eschew the assignment of human thought and emotion to animals and birds, this book convincingly shows that quails are capable of love and having hurt feelings, and are in need of companionship, just like

humans. Quails are also intelligent enough to play games and critique the slightest change in home decor! Of course Robert the Quail was very lucky to have "parents" as loving and doting as the Kienzles and benefited from the fact that they were a retired couple who enjoyed rearing a new "child" after their other children had long since...flown the coop.

My interest was sparked to read *That Quail, Robert*, because an adult friend of mine constantly is saying quotes from the book. I was surprised to find quite a lovely story about a mature couple and the tiny quail they raised. Robert befriended every human it met and as a reader, I was enchanted with his little personality. Prepare your heart, as the ending may bring tears. I loaned this book out and am replacing it, as the borrower asked to keep it. I will encourage my teacher-friends to read this to their 3rd-6th grade classes.

The writing style of Margaret Stanger is very descriptive and at times needed explanation when my 10 year old daughter and I read it aloud to one another, but it is so full of love and admiration that the message is clear: this bird was very very special and much loved. She (for Robert was a she not a he) was a dignified, sweet and loving 'person', and we really enjoyed the many well-told stories within. I read it when I was a young child, and it is one of my favorite books, along with *Charlotte's Web*. Just knowing that this is a true story makes this book even more remarkable. Animals are more special than the average human being realizes, and I wish more 'ordinary' people would read it to open their eyes to how wonderful the animals that share our world really are. We tend to get bogged down in our jobs and material things which really do nothing to enhance our lives. All we really need is a quail, perhaps, to enlighten our lives. Simplicity is always best. Fabulous, Fabulous book. I would like to know if there are any postcards or pictures available on Robert for sale, and if the people in the book are still alive...

Every once in a while I yearn for a story that touches the heart and the mind. This is one of those stories. I learned a lot about quail and their habits; I enjoyed reading the book. It's a story I won't forget. A wonderful story for young people and old and the in between. The way Stanger describes Robert's little habits and quirks are enchanting. I fell in love with the little bird and can easily understand why he created such a stir during his life time.

I adore this book, and have for many years. The story of a family which adopts a helpless quail and raises him (?) as one of their own. The li'l bird becomes more and more human-like, and the family

grows to love him dearly. I know that it may sound a trifle sentimental, and it is. If you are looking for something edgy, then this is not the book for you. If, however, you have a taste for gentle humor and charm, please try *This Quail Robert*. A contemporary classic.

to say that this book is heartwarming is an understatement. This is a true story of a quail who was left behind on the road and adopted by a caring family. There are some funny stories within the book such as the time when the author, a very dignified woman from New England, had a dinner party. Robert, the quail, chose that moment to fly into the broccoli with cream sauce and take a bath there spraying some of the guests and stamping little bird feet in a bowl of mint jelly. Quail in the wild, take dust baths. There are other stories within the book that show the bond between the quail and his adopted family. He was adopted legally and banded. This book is a sweet and wonderful read. Read and enjoy:)

I am a sixth grade teacher and have the distinct pleasure of teaching this novel to my students for the past several years. It is a delightful book that touches the heart. For animal lovers out there, this book is truly an amazing look at how precious animals are to our lives. My students are completely emotionally involved in the story from beginning to end and feel as though they have a new friend in *That Quail, Robert*. It is quite a tribute to a remarkable animal.

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