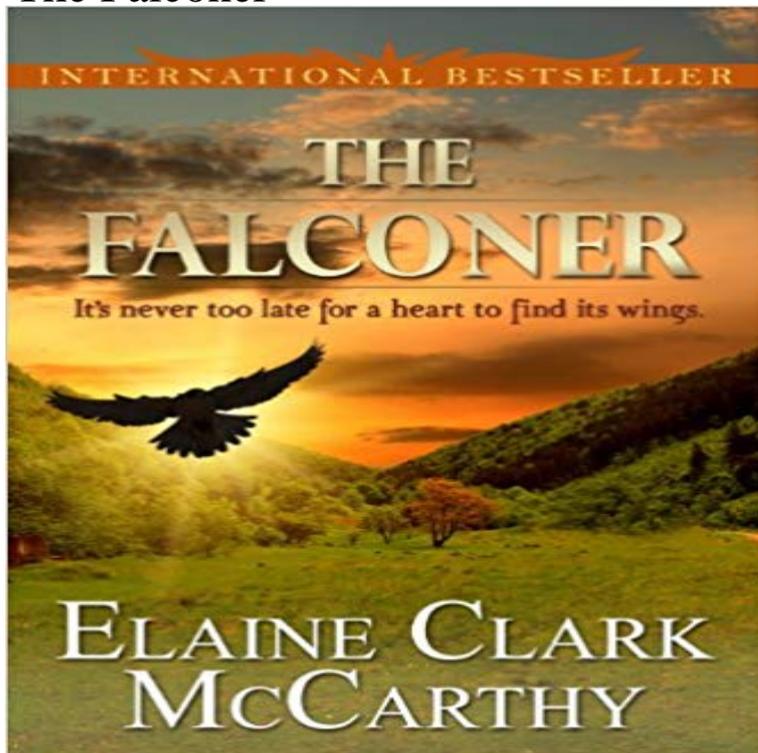


The Falconer



What do you do when you don't have forever? In this stunning love story set in the Sierra Nevadas, to ordinary people's lives are transformed by a passionate love affair. A strong, poetical, enchanting story that will make readers smile, weep, and reflect. At the time *The Falconer* was originally published in hardcover by Random House, it was translated into 17 foreign languages, optioned by 20th Century Fox, issued as a Book of the Month Club Alternate and a Readers Digest Condensed book, and was a Library Journal pre-publication bestseller as well as making the bestseller list in several foreign countries. From Library Journal When India Blake is given only a short time to live, she begins to realize what she has missed in life. Wanting to try things she has never done before, she decides on impulse to learn to fly falcons. This fateful decision leads her to Rhodri, a master falconer. It also takes her on a voyage of self-discovery. She finds a passion she has never known, and in death she finds the completeness and freedom she never found in life. This slim first novel tugs powerfully on the emotions, evoking both regret for opportunities lost and hope for dreams fulfilled. The writing is both spare and lyrical, adding to the intensity of the short time India and Rhodri have together. Not a traditional romance, this should nevertheless appeal to those who enjoy reading about emotional relationships. --Barbara E. Kemp, SUNY at Albany Libs. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Publishers Weekly The story of a passionate but doomed love affair related by a 37-year-old woman who has inoperable cancer, McCarthy's debut transcends the genre of pulp romance fiction through her poetic use of metaphor. Even so, it's a calculated weeper, heavy with emotional downers and melodramatic contrivances. Purposefully forming a list of things to do before she dies, India Blake

makes certain to include only those goals still attainable-like a ride in a balloon or seeing the ocean-with an emphasis on the natural world. It seems unlikely that her philandering husband, Dougie, will either help or hinder the fulfillment of these modest aspirations, since-from Indias perspective-hes just waiting for her to die so that he can see his latest girlfriend openly. In fact, perspective plays a big part in this tale set in the Sierra Nevadas, with India acquiring much of hers through her all-too-brief relationship with Rhodri MacNeal, a falconer. Indias life has been hard; she nursed her own alcoholic mother through a losing battle with cancer. Not only does Rhodri teach her how to fly falcons, but he also gives her the chance to be the little girl she never was. Ultimately, Rhodri helps India find her answers to the whys, hows and what-ifs that have shaped her life and, finally, to the Big Question: What does it all mean? The narrative is hampered by abrupt changes between narrator Indias I must-keep-my-chin-up first-person mode and a curiously flat third-person overview. Yet those who enjoy stories about the discovery of belief, about finding meaning at the end, will surely gulp down sobs by the time this slender tale delivers its final coup de grace and releases India to fly at last. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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