

FARMER (*softening*). Come on, then.

BILLY *and the FARMER address the nest.*

BILLY. That's where it is.

FARMER. I know it is. It's nested here for donkey's years now.

BILLY. Just think, and I never knew.

FARMER. There's not many that does. I see her every day. She'll fly out and then always sit there on that post.

BILLY. Her?

FARMER. That kestrel's a she. Her young 'uns are in t' nest. She collects food for 'em.

BILLY. She's a beauty. I wish I could see her every day. If I lived here I'd get a young 'un and train it.

FARMER. Would you?

BILLY. You can train 'em, you know.

FARMER. And how would you go about that?

BILLY. Do you know?

FARMER. No. And there's not many that *does*. If they can't be kept properly it's criminal.

BILLY. Do you know anyone what's kept 'em?

FARMER. One or two but they've always let 'em go because they couldn't do owt with 'em. They *never* seemed to get tame like other birds.

BILLY. Where could I find out about 'em then?

FARMER. I don't know. Books I suppose. I should think there are books on falconry.

*The LIBRARIAN enters. The desks of the classroom become the library tables. The PUPILS take out books and become the READERS in the library.*

LIBRARIAN. Can I help you?

BILLY. Books on hawks?

LIBRARIAN. Hawks?

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**Scene 6**

**Flashb**

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BILLY. Where would I get one?

LIBRARIAN. Hawks?

FARMER. You could try Prior's Bookshop or there's the City Library.

BILLY. Yeah, I want a book on falconry.

FARMER. They've books on everything there.

### Scene 6

#### Flashback. The Library. Afternoon

*The Library is filled with avid READERS.*

LIBRARIAN. I'm not really sure. You'd better try Ornithology.

BILLY. What's that?

LIBRARIAN. In the factual section under Zoology.

*The LIBRARIAN points the way. BILLY finds the book and struggles to read.*

BILLY. An Eagle for an Emperor, a Gryfalcon for a King; a Peregrine for a Prince, a Saker for a Knight, a Merlin for a Lady; a Goshawk for a Yeoman, a Sparrowhawk for a Priest, a Musket for a Holy-Water Clerk, a Kestrel for a Knave.

*BILLY returns to the desk.*

LIBRARIAN. Are you a member?

BILLY. What do you mean?

LIBRARIAN. Are you a member of the Library?

BILLY. I don't know about that. I just want to lend this book on falconry that's all.

LIBRARIAN. You can't *borrow* a book unless you're a member. You have to be a member to take a book out.

BILLY. I only want one.

LIBRARIAN. Have you ever filled out one of these forms?