

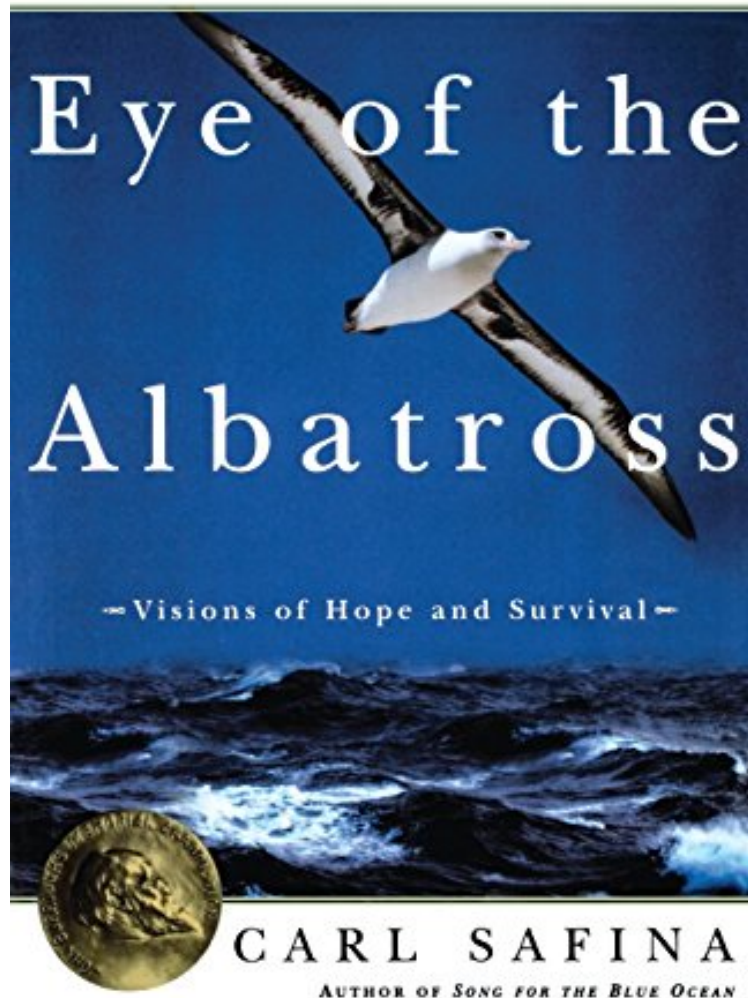
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Eye of the Albatross: Visions of Hope and Survival

Carl Safina

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"Truly magnificent—Safina has done as much as anyone save Cousteau to change our relationship with the aquatic world."—Bill McKibben, *The Boston Globe*



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#386390 in Books Carl Safina 2003-04-01 2003-04-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x .89 x 5.50l, 1.15 #File Name: 0805062297400 pages Eye of the Albatross Visions of Hope and Survival | File size: 17.Mb

Carl Safina : Eye of the Albatross: Visions of Hope and Survival before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Eye of the Albatross: Visions of Hope and Survival:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Cool book about really big birds By KPDR87 Fun read. Nice writing. He didn't quote way too much like he usually does. That was nice. This time he travels to the northwestern Hawaiian islands to talk to people about albatrosses, monk seals, and tiger sharks. He also goes up to Alaska to do some long-

lining for sablefish. Includes some lovely maps, black-and-white photos here and there, selected references, and an index. Probably my favorite book of his (alongside *Voyage of the Turtle*). He did say one dumb thing I must point out. He stated that "everyone in Europe believed" that Columbus was going to "fall off the edge of the world" during his first voyage. That's a myth he must've learned in grade school. They disagreed on the circumference of the Earth, not whether the darn thing was flat. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. What it's like to be an albatross By Agrippas I enjoyed reading about the albatrosses and other wild life that breed in the northwest islands of Hawaii. The on-going study of these animals and the history of their exploitation and the recent efforts to undo the damage to their species make a compelling story, well told. I have two reservations. In some earlier passages in the book he imputes to the birds rather human higher mental processes like planning. I found this not only unconvincing but it began, for me, to call into question his seriousness. (Later in the book he toned this down.) The other reservation I have is the unnecessary sermonizing that punctuates his narratives. I think he can trust his readers to have internalized the implications of what he writes of the shameful exploitation of the albatrosses and other animals. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. i loved the focus on the scientific data By jimi loved the focus on the scientific data, the tracking of these birds is something science has only been able to do recently. he did go off on fishing tangents but those were intimately related to the lives of these birds. he did get poetic but that was only a small portion of this book and it was really good. i wanted a "natural history" and i wanted "facts not feelings". i got it, it is a tremendous book. and i love the birds, i saw one in california once and i saw many in the western central pacific, hundreds of miles from land. i was dumb struck, howling wind and crashing waves and there they were. now i understand just a bit of how grand and glorious they are.

"One of the most delightful natural history studies in decades." *The Boston Globe* Eye of the Albatross takes us soaring to locales where whales, sea turtles, penguins, and shearwaters flourish in their own quotidian rhythms. Carl Safina's guide and inspiration is an albatross he calls Amelia, whose life and far-flung flights he describes in fascinating detail. Interwoven with recollections of whalers and famous explorers, *Eye of the Albatross* probes the unmistakable environmental impact of the encounters between man and marine life. Safina's perceptive and authoritative portrait results in a transforming ride to the ends of the Earth for the reader, as well as an eye-opening look at the health of our oceans.

From Publishers Weekly In this dazzling volume, Safina, a MacArthur award recipient, recounts his travels to remote portions of the northwest Hawaiian Islands to witness albatross breeding season, during which parent birds fly across entire oceans as much as 25,000 miles to hunt sufficient food to nourish their single chicks. Albatross survival, Safina (*Song for the Blue Ocean*) shows, is increasingly vulnerable to modern conditions; indeed, the shameful history of albatross exploitation, when the magnificent birds were all but exterminated in some areas for their valued eggs and feathers, is but an early chapter in the struggle against perils that now include entrapment in commercial fishing nets, ingesting plastic trash that washes ashore in vast quantities on their nesting islands and depletion of food stocks due to global warming. By turns rhapsodic, scolding and mystical, the book discusses issues that affect other seabirds, seals, sharks and sea turtles. But the albatross ("a great symphony of flesh, perception, bone, and feathers") remains its primary focus. Clinically minded readers may question Safina's tendency to psychologize animals or introduce mythological elements into his narrative, and some sections of the book resonate with more romantic passion than science. Still, Safina's encyclopedic knowledge and spirited prose provide a stunningly intimate portrait of an environment. (May 14) Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal The recipient of a MacArthur "genius" Fellowship and a Pew Scholar's Award in Conservation and the Environment, Safina (*Song for the Blue Ocean*) attempts to "tell a story of struggle and hope and the power of sheer persistence and of life's resilience." In narrating this tale, he has chosen as his guide a Laysan albatross named Amelia, "a great symphony of flesh, perception, bone, and feathers, composed of long movements and set to ever-changing rhythms of light, wind, and water." With the author and Amelia, the reader is taken on a tour of the oceans and introduced to many other kinds of ocean wildlife as well. The vice-president for marine conservation at the National Audubon Society, Safina focuses on the qualities of peace and tranquility in nature rather than on the "eat or be eaten" aspect that most people see. The result is a refreshing approach to natural history writing that is recommended for general readers. Mary J. Nickum, Lakewood, CO Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From The New Yorker The heroine of this powerful tale of marine life in the Pacific is Amelia, a Laysan albatross who was tagged with a satellite transmitter so that biologists could track her movements. Safina, author of the memorable "Song for the Blue Ocean," offers up a remarkable portrait of Amelia as she glides thousands of miles, journeying from tropical waters to sub-Arctic seas, spending almost all of her life in the air. And he describes with equal vividness the ocean across which she travels: fusing ecological history and serious science to great effect, he shows how the delicate interplay between human intervention and natural adaptation affects the lives of seals, sharks, turtles, and seabirds. Although the author is never less than outraged at the damage that humans can cause, his critique is nuanced, and he shows how, in some respects, the ocean is healthier today than it was a century ago. The book goes astray only when he devotes time to the personal

lives of his fellow-scientists, whose obsession with albatrosses is far less interesting than the albatrosses themselves.
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