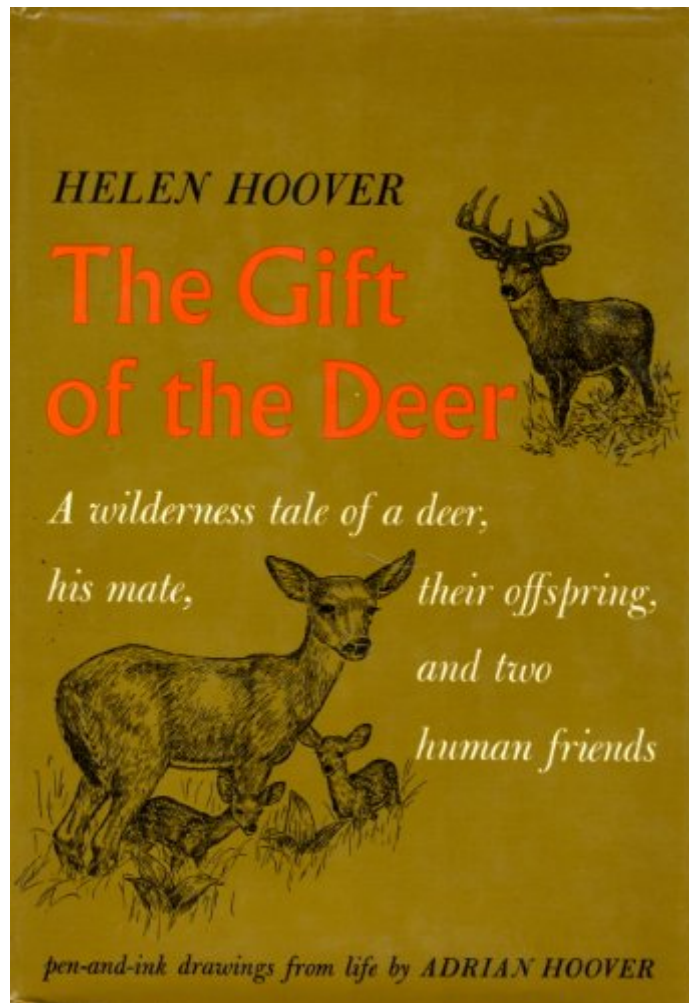




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# GIFT OF DEER



## Synopsis

In the farthest wilds of northeastern Minnesota, back in the Gunflint Range, the author of this book and her artist-husband have a two-room cabin home in the bush country. Beginning one Christmas Day when they first watched the starving deer they later named Peter, the Hoovers had many opportunities, a passionate inclination, and the nature skills to observe this whitetail buck—joined later by his mate, and finally by several of their offspring—through the changing seasons of four years. Close as their relationship was to the generations of beautiful animals, the Hoovers did not consider them pets but fellow inhabitants of that wild country. Their observations reveal the rewards of living close to wild creatures; but more than that, they add valuable information to our knowledge of the cycle of life of the deer and other creatures native to the same world. For although the deer are the chief characters of this book, they are by no means the only wild creatures Mrs. Hoover writes of. Her naturalist's eye is just as sharp and her affection just as great for the antics of a curious chickadee or a flying squirrel. Mrs. Hoover's identification with nature knows no favoritism. The Hoovers—the bush country of the United States-Canadian border—is farther removed from civilization than "Mr. Emerson's woodlot," but the close relationship of *The Gift of the Deer to Walden* is evident for all to enjoy. Adrian Hoover's drawings are from life, and they add another level of understanding to his wife's vivid prose.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Like sunbeams streaming into a dark forest, Helen Hoover pours her heart into the pages of this book. For animal lovers, the distinct personalities of the deer come as no surprise. But for skeptics, the character traits of these delicate creatures may be a revelation. This book should be required reading for anyone seeking a hunting permit! It's impossible for any compassionate person not to be touched by Peter, Mama, Pretty and all the other deer. The emotionally perceptive sketches of Hoover's husband, Ade, are a valuable contribution to the story. Highly recommended book for naturalists, adventurers, and anyone who enjoys reading exquisite descriptions of our beautiful planet and its amazing creatures.

After reading "Gift of the Deer" in an old Reader's Digest Condensed Book, I ordered the book for a friend's birthday. He is an outdoorsman and lives where there is lots of wildlife, so I know this book will bring him some reading pleasure.

A favorite winter read. I first read this heartwarming story twenty years ago, and I've returned to it every few years since. Each time I feel I am rediscovering old friends. Helen Hoover's remarkable skills at observing and respecting wild animals in their own element, which I first discovered in her memoir, "A Place in the Woods", bring to life several generations of a family of deer who return each year to Helen & Ade Hoover's cabin in the Minnesota northwoods after they saved the life of Peter, a noble buck who showed up on their porch one winter night after having been shot in the eye. Their care for him, while respecting his wildness and not trying to tame him, led to a loyal trust in them, and each year he returned, bringing his ever-growing family with him. Hoover takes care not to romanticize or attribute human qualities to the deer; rather she brings to life the individual personalities of each of the deer, their family bond, and their innate wisdom. This is NOT "Bambi

This book was a favorite read of mine from childhood when I first encountered it in Reader's Digest Condensed Books. The story of Peter and the other deer who became a part of the Hoover's lives is just as great a joy to read again today. I was amazed to discover how clearly events and

descriptions had remained with me all these years, found it fascinating to see how much has changed and yet how much remained the same in attitudes, belief and knowledge of these beautiful wild creatures. The illustrations by Ade Hoover bring the animal characters to vibrant yet gentle life. This is an absolute recommendation for anyone who wants to read about real, not idealized animals and the people who interact with them.

This book is a keeper. I fell in love with the book and bless the Hoovers for being the compassionate and wise humans they were - many could learn from them. It deserves a cherished spot in a family library. Helen Hoover captured her beloved deer's characteristics and behavior. Wildlife are not pets, but they can be wonderful friends.

I stumbled upon this series of books by Helen Hoover as I was looking for information about white tail deer. They all sounded so interesting I ordered all 4 of the books and I was not disappointed. I live in a more refined woods (in Minnesota) than Mrs. Hoover and her husband and I am amazed at how they managed to live in the great North Woods of Minnesota especially considering they moved there from Chicago. I read this book first and couldn't put it down. A Place In the Woods should be read first, then Gift of the Deer, then Long Shadowed Forest, and finally, Years of the Forest. There are incidents that will make your hair stand on end, some that will anger you, and others that are sad. I have shared these books with my brother in law and my sister. I would share with all of you but I guess you will have to buy the books. You will enjoy and marvel at what the books hold for you. I am sorry there are not more to read.

Well, what can I say about this book when I myself feed deer on our property twice a day??? That I loved it, it touched my heart to the very core and I could completely relate. I have been titled "Snow White" from my friends on Facebook due to the fact that I'm such a HUGE animal lover. I feed deer, squirrels and every kind of bird. The author touches the heart strings of all who live their lives and feel the same about animals and nature as does her caring loving husband. These generous people take a starving deer into their lives and provide it with food through a very rough winter and the results? They are rewarded back three fold with not only a beautiful loyal friendly buck who recovers 100% but also he in return touches their lives with his entire family who they are able to watch feed and love and learn so much from. My neighbor feeds our deer also so for her birthday I bought her a copy of this book. I also have ordered the authors other 3 books that go with this one.

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