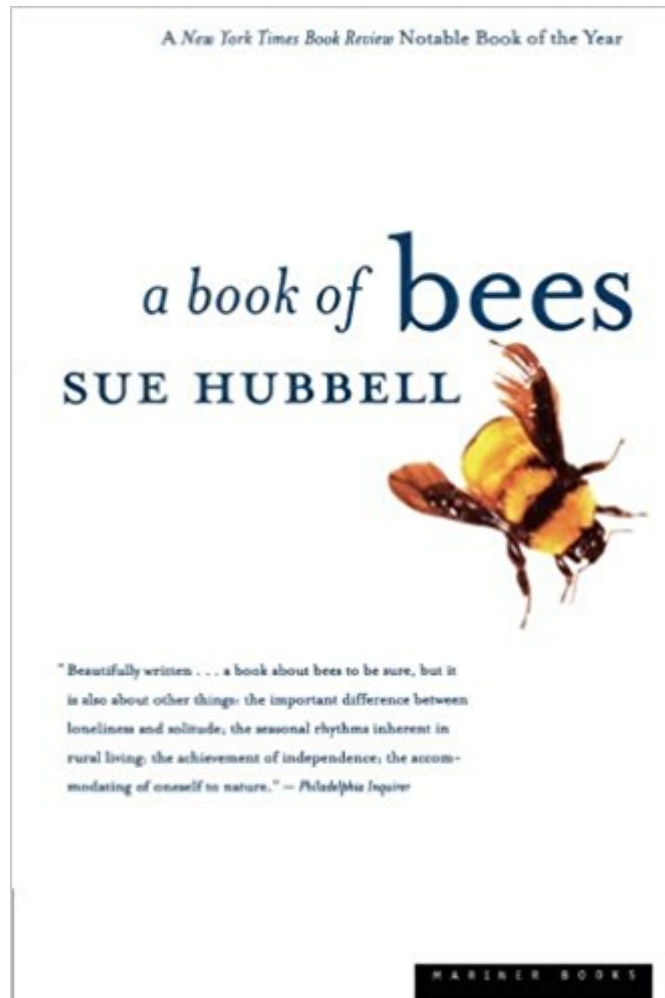




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# A Book Of Bees: And How To Keep Them



## Synopsis

"The real masterwork that Sue Hubbell has created is her life," David Quammen wrote in the New York Times. This book is, like its author, a unique achievement. Weaving a vivid portrait of her own life and her bees' lives through the seasons, Hubbell writes "about bees to be sure, but also about other things: the important difference between loneliness and solitude . . . the accommodating of oneself to nature" (Philadelphia Inquirer).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In her widely acclaimed *A Country Year*, Hubbell wrote about living on her 100-acre honey-producing farm in the Ozarks. Here she introduces us to the tasks and pleasures of beekeeping. Hubbell manages 300 hives, some on her own farm, others scattered about the countryside on land she rents for one gallon of honey a year. Beekeeping, we're shown, is a marvelous example of symbiosis, advantageous to humans, bees and crops. Noting that the end of one honey season is the start of the next, Hubbell begins with autumn when she checks the hives and prepares them for winter. She takes us, step by step, through the construction of a hive, explaining terms used by beekeepers. Spring brings re-queening if needed, and late summer, the harvest. Hubbell describes the collection and extraction of honey, hard work to complete the season. Beekeeping has to be the apex of animal husbandry; it is a wondrous subject, and Hubbell does it justice. Portions of the book have appeared in the *New Yorker*. Illustrations not seen by PW. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable

edition of this title.

"a melodious mix of memoir, nature journal, and beekeeping manual" Kirkus Reviews  
"The real masterwork that Sue Hubbell has created is her life." The New York Times  
"about bees to be sure, but also about other things: the important differences between loneliness and solitude. . . the accommodating of oneself to nature" The Philadelphia Inquirer

If someone wanted to take up beekeeping this is a wonderful start! There are loads of pictures, how-to's for hive building/maintaining, and great sources for more in-depth info. I like the authors style of writing about her life with bees. Fun read!

Bill and I keep bees. We're novices -- just started in April 2016, though Bill helped a friend with a couple hives the previous year and took beekeeping classes. They are fascinating to watch and we will sit out in our yard a couple feet from the hive, witnessing epic battles as the guards wrestle intruders to the death. Sue (one of our favorite authors) writes about her beekeeping in the Ozarks.

The Book of Bees was right up there with one of my favorites. Sue Hubbell is the kind of person that would be fun to know. She has me thinking about buying a BeeHive or two. Having a very good friend with seven or eight Hives adds to my interest. Bees are very interesting creatures that we have been given to take care of and watch over. The Bees importance can not be understated.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book, there was something really sweet about the descriptions of the ways Sue tends her bees and now I would love a hive of my own! I will be purchasing more of her books, I really like her writing style.

I am not a bee keeper nor do I ever intend to keep bees, however, this is such an enchanting book I enjoyed reading every word. Please do not pass over this book thinking it for bee keepers only...its not. It s journey, one I hope you enjoy as much as I.

This book was reccomended to me and is a great primer to anyone thinking about raising bees. Poor bees need all the help they can get. GMO Blossoms have to be unhealthy for the bees. Maybe people and bees shouldn't have to eat round-up (glyphosphate).

A friend lent this book to me and I waited a while before I picked it up, but when I did, I could hardly put it down. Sue Hubbell's writing style is engaging and just fun to read. I learned a lot about bees and beekeeping, a little about the author and a little about myself when I read this book. She lays it on the line about what is involved in beekeeping. If you have any inclination to keep bees, Sue Hubbell will dispell any romantic myths you may have about the process. But she also paints a picture of idyllic days in fields surrounded by forests, observing the wondrous life of bees. Sue Hubbell's real contribution to the beekeeping literature is that she tells about her own special ways with bees, based on many years working with them, some of which counter common theories about them. I would think that a beekeeper would find this information very useful, and I found it simply fascinating.

This is not strictly a how-to about beekeeping. There are other fine books that will provide that if you need it (Backyard Beekeeper comes to mind). However, I found Sue Hubbell's book to be a great companion to the how-to. It reads much more like a story recounting a year in the life of a commercial beekeeper. Not only did I find great advice from someone who has worked with bees for many years and understands their nature as well as any human could. But I also enjoyed learning about Sue's humble and deeply rewarding life as a beekeeper and student of bees. I was able to pick up some valuable tips and hints to use with my own bees. I also gained a deeper appreciation for the beekeeping profession whether you are a part-timer or a pro. And lastly, what a complex and wonderful creation is the honeybee. And what a privilege to work with them.

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