

# Craighead House Chronicles

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## Gift

### President's Message

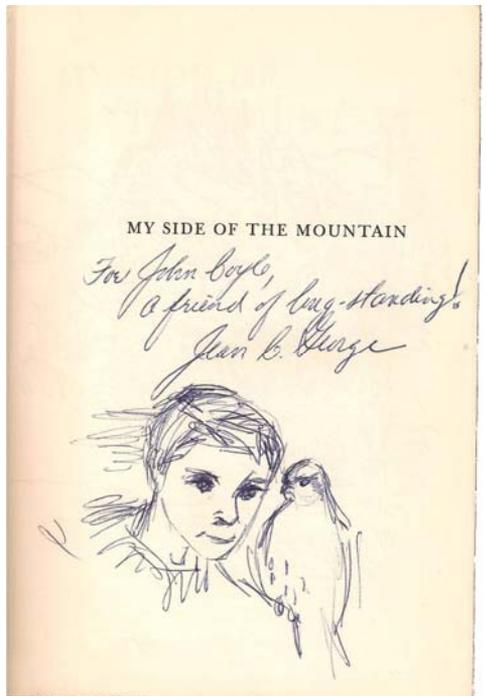
As I write this, twelve shopping days 'til Christmas. Many of us are thinking: "What would be a good gift for \_\_\_\_\_?" Something special that would bring lasting joy. Something that would hold its value, maybe even be handed down to the next generation. Maybe.....Something....life-changing.

Think for a moment about your own life. Reflect on your childhood. What has happened between then and now that caused you to become the person you are today? What place or activity did you discover then that still brings you joy today? Perhaps the smell of pine trees on a sunny winter's day? The grandeur of a star-studded sky on a dark night? The thrill of a big trout rising to take your dry fly? Petting a purring cat curled up in your lap?

Chances are pretty good that your place or activity involves an animal or nature in some way. For

### John Coyle

me, and for thousands like me, the course of my life was profoundly influenced by a book I read as a pre-teen, *My Side of the Mountain*. Once I had imagined myself as Sam Gribbley, living free and independent in the woods, my life would never be the same. Hiking,



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