



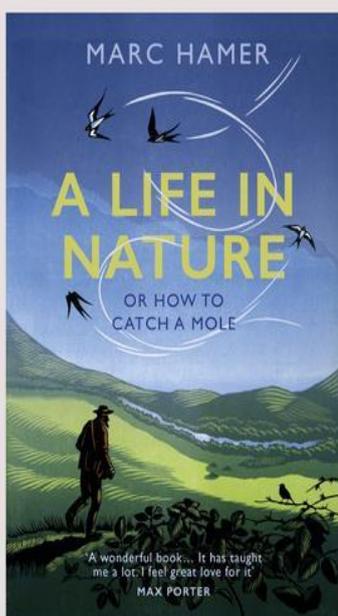
Suntrap Book Review

A Life In Nature or How to Catch a Mole

Written by Mark Hamer

Published by Vintage £8.99 (p/b)

Age range: Adult



Description

At the age of sixteen, Marc Hamer left home with only a rucksack and started walking. By day, he observed the animals and birds. By night, he slept under hedges, in woodlands and on riverbanks. It was the beginning of a life in nature.

Years later, now working as a gardener and mole-catcher in the Welsh countryside, Marc tells of the experiences that have shaped him and of the wonders that he encounters each day. He considers, too, the fascinating ways of the mole and the myths that surround this curious creature.

This beautiful, meditative book explores what nature can teach us about ourselves and our search for contentment. It is a celebration of living peacefully and finding joy in the world around us.

Reviews

A captivating, life-affirming memoir of a life in nature that celebrates finding wonder in our world. The perfect gift for nature lovers.

'A wonderful book... It has taught me a lot. I feel great love for it'. Max Porter

'It is rare to encounter such respect and understanding of nature' Rosamund Young, author of *The Secret Life of Cows*

How To Catch A Mole is a beguiling mixture: part autobiography, part handbook, part travel book, part philosophical treatise. I'm happy to report that it succeeds on each level -- Craig Brown, *Mail on Sunday*

Not only a compelling meditation on the 'little gentleman in black velvet'...but also a fascinating, lyrical account of the loneliness and beauty of life on the margins, a memoir of vagrancy, *Times Literary Supplement*

How to Catch a Mole is a beautiful, elegiac ode to a remarkable creature. It's also an exploration of Hamer's life as he approaches his sunset years. Each page is filled with wonder, love, regret, humility and a sense of wonder (and oneness) with nature., *Washington Post*

** Longlisted for The Wainwright Prize 2019 **