

MIGHTY:
SAVING THE GREYS



“A most imaginative and inventive read whilst highlighting the plight of African Grey parrots in wild Africa”

Alan Jones
Chairman of the Parrot Society UK
and retired vet

*“What an exciting book.
I could not put it down”*

Les Rance
Secretary of the Parrot Society UK

FICTION

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Written by Lillian Bird

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*This is a whimsical and uplifting tale
of a rather special parrot, set against a
backdrop of real life and current events,
for the delight of anyone looking for a
'flight of fancy', for bird lovers and for
those who revel in anthropomorphism*

from the imagination of
Lillian Bird
2021



*This book is not written in a style aimed at young children,
but would be suited to older children*



FACTS CHECK

Types of African Grey

Not counting a sub-species, there are two main types of African Grey parrots, both from the central African regions.

Congo African Greys (CAGs) have mottled grey feathers, black beaks and bright red tails and are about 13" to 16" (33 cm – 41 cm) in length from beak to tail end.

Timnehs are a slightly darker grey, have horn coloured upper beaks and dark maroon tails and are about 10" (25.5 cm) from beak to tail end.

Both types are equally intelligent and can learn words but only the CAGs can copy tones and how people speak.

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My thanks go to Dr. Irene Pepperberg who made no contribution whatsoever to this book but whose work with her star ‘pupil’, Alex, and with Griffin, who she is pictured with below, has inspired me.



This is the famous Alex who, along with Dr. Pepperberg, pioneered new avenues in avian intelligence. ALEX – an acronym for Avian Learning EXperiment – demonstrated a remarkable level of cognition. When he died prematurely, aged 31, he left a significant legacy of learning. <https://alexfoundation.org/>

I was also inspired by my own two African Grey parrots who are perpetually fascinating and entertaining and am grateful to Barrett Watson, the Suffolk breeder I acquired them from. He sent me this image just before parting with them, aged 12 weeks, in 2020.



And I would like to issue a big ‘thank you’ to Alan Jones and Les Rance, chairman and secretary of the Parrot Society UK, for kindly doing a proof and facts check of this book.

THE AUTHOR

Lillian Bird is a journalist by training although, since finding her environmental conscience in the early 1990’s, she has focused primarily on voluntary planning and transport policy work for various non-governmental organisations including the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE). She lives in Cheshire with her male and female African Greys, Contra and Cleo, where she has served as an Independent Councillor on her Parish Council since 1999. She also represents the Cheshire Association of Local Councils on the National Assembly of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). She wrote this book as light relief during the coronavirus lockdowns of late 2020 and early 2021 and hopes it will both bring some joy and also provoke some thoughts about human impacts on the environment.

