

Suzie Gilbert's Debut Novel, Unflappable, Takes Readers on a Wild Road Trip

"Thrilling," "fast-paced, crisp, smart, and passionate," and "gripping," it's like Thelma and Louise...with a homicidal bald eagle

SUZIE GILBERT

author of *Flyaway*



UNFLAPPABLE

A NOVEL

New York City, Apr 5, 2020 (Issuewire.com) - In [Unflappable: A Novel](#) (on sale now, preview [here](#)), a darkly funny and sexy debut novel from Suzie Gilbert, readers race north from Florida with wildlife rehabilitator Luna Burke and Bald Eagle Mars. The two of them are aided by an underground railroad of wildlife lovers, and hot on their heels are Luna's soon-to-be-ex-husband and the authorities. Will they make it to the eagle sanctuary in Canada?

A laugh-out-loud and suspenseful road trip, **Unflappable** have been described as Carl Hiaasen meets *Thelma and Louise*. It's about grappling with the past and escaping the ties that bind you, and Gilbert hopes this story of liberation will resonate with readers.

"There are all kinds of cages, whether you're human or animal," she explains. "In the beginning, Luna is trapped by her marriage, her past, and her inability to communicate her emotions. This 2,300-mile odyssey frees her in all kinds of ways."

Gilbert's first foray into fiction illuminates the true-to-life, cross-country network of nature lovers licensed to care for injured and orphaned wildlife. "The wildlife rehabilitator connection is real," explains Gilbert, a bird rehabber herself. "We're all connected through the internet. We swap information and make each other laugh when things go very wrong."

"I wanted to show our strange world - the work, the cost, the emotional toll. But I also wanted to share the joy we feel when we help an injured animal come back to life and the mind-boggling lengths to which we will go to support each other."

In fact, Gilbert had to draw on her own network to write **Unflappable**. "I only rehab birds, so I had to do research and call my mammal rehabber friends. I didn't know the set up required for a black bear, or how high a Florida panther can actually jump."

[Gilbert](#), author of two other books—her memoir, *Flyaway: How a Wild Bird Rehabber Sought Adventure and Found Her Wings* (HarperCollins), and an illustrated children's book, *Hawk Hill* (Chronicle Books)—opted to self-publish *Unflappable*, a process she calls, "exciting, satisfying, and hell on wheels." *Unflappable* is on sale on March 24, 2020.

Early Praise for *Unflappable*

"No writer captures the wild and reverent soul of wildlife rehabilitators like Suzie Gilbert. *Unflappable* is a thrilling tale of heedless, consuming, undeterred love."—Mike Bergin, founder of 10,000 Birds

"Fast-paced, crisp, smart, and passionate, *Unflappable* took me on a road trip, unlike anything I've read before. Full of laugh out loud moments, it's a comic, romantic suspense story about how animals help us find the greatness within ourselves."—Sy Montgomery, author of *The Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration into the Wonder of Consciousness* and *The Good Good Pig*

"*Unflappable* by Suzie Gilbert is up there with the best of Carl Hiaasen and in lots of ways similar in style and humor. It's a perfect tonic for quarantined, bored, depressed wildlife lovers -- and for anyone who appreciates good, crisp storytelling."—Ted Williams, author, columnist, and winner of Outdoor Writers

Association of America's top conservation award

"*Unflappable* is a gripping read and a multi-leveled love story that hits many sweet spots. It's a true to life depiction of humankind and how our fate is intertwined with how we choose to connect to nature."—Liz Deluna Gordon, birder and American Birding Association events coordinator

About the Author

Suzie Gilbert lives in New York's beautiful Hudson Valley. She has worked with wild birds for nearly 30 years and notes that her quest is "to raise awareness of how humans and wildlife can coexist in better ways." She is the author of *Flyaway: How a Wild Bird Rehabber Sought Adventure and Found Her Wings* (HarperCollins); a children's book, *Hawk Hill* (Chronicle Books). Her debut novel is *Unflappable*.



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