

# Jonathon Livingston Seagull by Richard Bach (1970)

He didn't want to be like the others, he wanted to learn to fly better & faster. One day he learned how to dive at terminal velocity [214 mph]. But his flock banished him when he flew too fast near them. He learned how to dive & get fish instead of waiting for bread crumbs & chum. He learned to sleep in the air with offshore wind. He could rise above the storm rather than sit it out on the ground.

One day two brilliant birds took him to another world. He got a new body & learned to fly even better. His instructor could talk with him telepathically. They didn't believe in Heaven, but in reincarnation to perfection. The eldest bird taught him how to move instantly through time & space. The elder told Jon to work on love, and then the elder got brighter & disappeared.

Jon went back to his old world & helped other outcast gulls. They called him the son of the Great Gull. He worked with them until they were ready for him to leave.

Quotes: "The gull sees farthest that flies highest." "The most important thing in living was to reach out & touch perfection in that which they most loved to do." "We choose our next world through what we learn in this one."

"Everything that limits us we have to put aside." "The hardest thing in the world is to convince a bird that he is free..." (Jonathon Livingston Seagull)