

Chapter 1 : Lamp collection for Artemide that recalls the shapes of birds poised on wires and branches

The Birds Poised to Fly I read a great little short story with that title by Patricia Highsmith yesterday. A man called Don has written to his lover in Europe to propose marriage and checks his mailbox with mounting distress each morning to see if she has replied.

Plot[edit] The play begins with two middle-aged men stumbling across a hillside wilderness, guided by a pet crow and a pet jackdaw. One of them advises the audience that they are fed up with life in Athens, where people do nothing all day but argue over laws, and they are looking for Tereus , a king who was once metamorphosed into the Hoopoe , for they believe he might help them find a better life somewhere else. Just then a very large and fearsome bird emerges from a camouflaged bower, demanding to know what they are up to and accusing them of being bird-catchers. They appease him and he returns indoors to fetch his master. Moments later the Hoopoe himself appearsâ€”a not very convincing bird who attributes his lack of feathers to a severe case of moulting. He is happy to discuss their plight with them and meanwhile one of them has a brilliant ideaâ€”the birds, he says, should stop flying about like idiots and instead should build themselves a great city in the sky, since this would not only allow them to lord it over men, it would also enable them to blockade the Olympian gods in the same way that the Athenians had recently starved the island of Melos into submission. The Hoopoe likes the idea and he agrees to help implement it, provided of course that the two Athenians can first convince all the other birds. He calls to his wife, the Nightingale, and bids her to begin her celestial music. The notes of an unseen flute swell through the theatre and meanwhile the Hoopoe provides the lyrics, summoning the birds of the world from their different habitatsâ€”birds of the fields, mountain birds and birds of the trees, birds of the waterways, marshes and seas. These soon begin to appear and each of them is identified by name on arrival. Four of them dance together while the rest form into a Chorus. On discovering the presence of men, the newly arrived birds fly into a fit of alarm and outrage, for mankind has long been their enemy. The cleverer of the two Athenians, the author of the brilliant idea, then delivers a formal speech, advising the birds that they were the original gods and urging them to regain their lost powers and privileges from the johnny-come-lately Olympians. The birds are completely won over and urge the Athenians to lead them in their war against the usurping gods. The clever one then introduces himself as Pisthetaerus Trustyfriend and his companion is introduced as Euelpides Goodhope. Meanwhile, the Nightingale emerges from her hiding place and reveals herself as an enchantingly feminine figure. She presides over the Chorus of birds while they address the audience in a conventional parabasis: Hear us, you who are no more than leaves always falling, you mortals benighted by nature, You enfeebled and powerless creatures of earth always haunting a world of mere shadows, Entities without wings, insubstantial as dreams, you ephemeral things, you human beings: Turn your minds to our words, our ethereal words, for the words of the birds last forever! It cites some of the benefits the audience derives from birds such as early warnings of a change in seasons and it invites the audience to join them since birds easily manage to do things mere men are afraid to do such as beating up their fathers and committing adultery. During this service, he is pestered by a variety of unwelcome visitors including a young versifier out to hire himself to the new city as its official poet, an oracle-monger with prophecies for sale, a famous geometer, Meton , offering a set of town-plans, an imperial inspector from Athens with an eye for a quick profit, and a statute-seller trying to peddle a set of laws originally written for a remote, barely-heard-of town called Olophyx. Pisthetaerus chases off all these intruders and then retires indoors to finish the religious service. The birds of the Chorus step forward for another parabasis. They promulgate laws forbidding crimes against their kind such as catching, caging, stuffing, or eating them and they end by advising the festival judges to award them first place or risk getting defecated on. Pisthetaerus returns to the stage moments before a messenger arrives with a report on the construction of the new walls: A second messenger then arrives with news that one of the Olympian gods has sneaked through the defenses. A hunt is organized, the goddess Iris is detected and cornered and soon she wafts down under guard. After being interrogated and insulted by Pisthetaerus, she is allowed to fly off to her father Zeus to complain about her treatment. Hardly has she gone when a third messenger arrives, declaring that men in their multitudes are now

flocking to join the new city-in-the-sky. Another set of unwelcome visitors arrives as advertised, singing because inspired by the new city. One is a rebellious youth who exults in the notion that here at last he has permission to beat up his father. The famous poet, Cinesias, is next, waxing incoherently lyrical as the poetic mood takes hold of him. Third is a sycophant in raptures at the thought of prosecuting victims on the wing. All of them are sent packing by the Pisthetaerus. Prometheus arrives next, sheltering under a parasol because he is an enemy of Zeus and he is trying not to be seen from the heavens. He has come with advice for Pisthetaerus: His mission accomplished, Prometheus departs just moments before a delegation from Zeus arrives. There are only three delegates: The festive gathering departs amid the strains of the wedding march: In spite of this public optimism, there was ongoing controversy in Athens over the mutilation of the hermai, an act of impious vandalism that had cast ominous doubts over the Sicilian Expedition even before the fleet had left port. However, he managed to escape from custody and a reward of one talent of gold was subsequently offered by the Athenian authorities to anyone who could claim responsibility for his death. Places and people mentioned in *The Birds* [edit] Aristophanes wrote for the amusement of his fellow citizens and his plays are full of topical references. The following explanation of topical references in *The Birds* is based on the work of various scholars [2] [9] [10] commonplace references to conventional gods are omitted: A region associated with the seasonal migration of cranes lines, it allows for a pun on the Greek word *libas* anything that drops or trickles "Euelpides claims to be a Libyan bird on the grounds that he has wet himself with fear Pisthetaerus claims to be a bird from this river because he wets himself with fear line A popular pun associates Phasian phasianikos with informers or sycophants sycophantikos "the pun however is developed more explicitly in *The Acharnians* *Acharnians* line Phalerum: An old port of Athens, it is a source of sardines line 76, mentioned also in an earlier play. One of two Athenian ships reserved for state errands, it had recently been sent to Sicily to fetch Alcibiades back to Athens for trial. It is mentioned here as a good reason not to live near the sea line Iris resembles it and its sister ship Paralos as an errand-runner for the authorities A town in Elis, it is suggested by *The Hoopoe* as a good place to start a new life but it is rejected by Euelpides because it puns with leprosy, which reminds him of Melanthius, a poet whose skin was evidently as bad as his verse line An island that had rebelled against Athenian control, it had been starved into submission. It is mentioned here as an example of what might be done against the gods line and also because it is an epithet for Diagoras of Melos, a notorious atheist outlawed from Athens possibly due to public anger over the mutilation of the hermae. Melos is also mentioned in *The Clouds* as an epithet for a Diagoras-like figure Socrates. It is mentioned also in *The Knights* and *The Frogs*. The religious centre of Greece, it is referred to by that name lines, and also by its ancient name Pytho lines, Athenians could only reach it through Boeotia, enemy territory It is mentioned in other plays also. A Peloponnesian town, it was destroyed by the Argives at about this time. A good source of wool line, its people make a poor comparison with Athenians, There are references to it in two other plays. A community on the Attic coast, it was the birthplace of the historian Thucydides. Euelpides was on his way there from Athens when he was once mugged line It was once ruled by cuckoos line It was the home of the pyramid and yet nobody from there helped build the wall in the sky This was another ancient land formerly ruled by cuckoos line Its famous walls resemble those of Cloudcuckooland line A deme within the Antiochides tribe, it is the nominal home of Euelpides line An ancient, oracular shrine in the north west of Greece, its role is now performed by the birds line A large river north of Greece favoured by swans line Home town of the enemy, it is also the name for common rope used as webbing for beds. Euelpides thinks it might be a good name for the new city-in-the-sky but Pisthetaerus would never sleep comfortably under that name line More commonly known as Lacedaimon, Sparta is the model of a xenophobic town A plain where the Olympian gods outboasted the giants line The northern side of the Athenian acropolis, its equivalent in Cloudcuckooland is called Pelargikon "of the stork line A promontory identified with Poseidon Souniaratos Invoked at Sounion, it is now to be identified with the hawk "Sounierax line The epithet Souniaratos appears also in *The Knights*. An island identified with Leto Ortygometra Mother of Quail Island, it is now to be identified with the quail though by the same epithet Ortygometra line A Sicilian city founded by the Greek tyrant Hieron I, it is fancifully mentioned by the young poet line while he addresses Pisthetaerus in the manner of the illustrious bard Pindar addressing Hieron

Pindar fragment Neighbouring towns in the northern Peloponnese, they are used metaphorically in a prophecy quoted by the oracle monger to define an intermediate space inhabited by dogs and crows i. A deme within the Aegides tribe, close to Athens " the mathematician Meton had recently designed an aqueduct there. A remote town in the troubled north-east of Greece, near Mount Athos , it is the very model of a well-regulated town line A mining district near Athens, famous for its silver " owls from there i. Athenian coins will flock to the festival judges who award victory to The Birds line A river associated with Olympia , home of The Olympic Games " a breathless, gasping runner is said to be breathing it line A north-eastern frontier and often a battleground during the Peloponnesian War, it is where the rebellious youth is sent to act out his violent instincts line It is mentioned in other plays. A village in the northern Peloponnese where a woollen cloak was awarded to winners in local games. Brothers of the Persians, one might be expected to arrive on a camel " even if he happened to be a bird line There are several references to them in the other plays. Inhabiting the eastern shores of the Aegean, they are known for their involvement with crests " they invented the helmet crest and they lived on hill crests line " see also Herodotus. There are references to Carians in two other plays. A delegate from Persia, Pharnaces, is scheduled to appear at the ecclesia " an opportunity for corrupt Athenian officials line Other references to Persians are in terms of the cock, a Persian bird lines , that predated Darius and Megabazus as lord of Persia. Persians are mentioned in other plays too. Staunch allies of the Athenians, they merit a mention in prayers line There are references to them in other plays also. A warlike and savage people " an effete Athenian, Straton, is imagined wandering in their midst Scythians feature in the role of archers Athenian equivalent of policemen in three plays.

Chapter 2 : Bird Flight | Ask A Biologist

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Whistling swans, also called tundra swans, are on the move again this month. A few weeks later, more will alight on the swamps of North Carolina. The birds will spend the winter feeding on grasses and small mollusks spineless animals with shells, like snails and clams. Among the migrating flocks are four-month-old youngsters making their first long flight. Their parents are teaching them the route: Flocks may stay in one place for a time on their migration. It took humans a long time to learn the mysteries of migration in general and tundra-swan migration in particular. Long ago, says Bill Reffalt, also of The Wilderness Society, "people used to think that every spring and fall birds went to the bottom of the ocean, into holes in the ground, or into trees. By about 1800, people suspected that swans flew a long way every spring and fall. They wanted to find out how far and where. Small groups of bird-lovers got together and began "banding" birds. Famous bird artist John James Audubon was one of the first to band a bird. In the early 1800s, he wanted to know if a bird in his yard every year was the same one, coming back. By 1850, some 2,000 volunteers across North America were banding and watching birds. But the only thing the researchers could say for certain about the whistling swans was that they went south to Chesapeake Bay in the fall and north - somewhere - in the spring. It would take half a century to solve this mystery. But who wanted to know, and why? Curious scientists, for one, and farmers who wanted to keep their crops safe from hungry flocks of migrating birds. Later, airplane pilots needed to know. Flocks of birds - especially tundra swans weighing up to 20 pounds and with wingspans of up to six feet - can be dangerous to aircraft. The birds may hit the planes, damaging them, and even on rare occasions causing them to crash. The swan that solved the puzzle Finally, on an Alaskan summer day in 1956, pilot Jim King spotted a swan. He dipped a wing and set his float plane down on a lake. The seven-year-long project to find the spring-migration site of whistling swans was over. Hope had been banded in the Chesapeake just six months earlier. She was the first banded swan ever sighted in Alaska! Since that day, thousands more swans have been fitted with coded bands or radio transmitters. The swans are tracked along their 4,000-mile migration route by specially equipped airplanes and even by satellites. Today, traditional flight paths and stopovers have been mapped. Some 30,000 to 60,000 migrating swans stop off there about the second week in October. Migration routes are not precise. Sometimes storms blow a flock off course. In October 1956, police in Pittsburgh were alarmed by a loud, unfamiliar baying. It sounded like a riot! Heavy clouds had forced a flock of 1,000 swans to land on the Allegheny River. The racket was just swans being swans. Tundra swans usually fly several hundred miles a day on their migration flights. They fly about 18 to 30 miles per hour, though with a tailwind flocks have been clocked at 50 to 60 m.p.h. They fly high, too: Mallard ducks, though, have been spotted at 20,000 feet, and the migratory champion is the bar-headed goose, seen flying at 29,000 feet over the Himalayas. Like other migrating birds, swans fly in a slanted line or a "V" formation. The leader of the formation has the hardest job. He or she pushes through the air first. This makes flying easier for the birds following it. The birds take turns leading the flock. As one bird tires and drops back, another moves up to take its place. Remember William Sladen, who found Hope in the Arctic? One of his early air chases in a plane includes this report: The swans and tracking plane played hopscotch over Ohio. The birds landed before dawn after flying nonstop for more than eight hours. The plane, only an imitation bird, had to land for refueling - a humbling thought! They head south to avoid bad weather and find food. Some birds, like the tundra swan, migrate to the far north in the spring to nest. The hour summer days near the Arctic Circle create an abundant source of food. The remoteness of the region also lends protection to their young. Safety and abundant food attract other birds and animals. Caribou also migrate north to bear their young. By late September, the waterways up north begin to freeze over, and the swans and their offspring head south to milder climes. Bird-banding solved the mystery of "Where do the swans go? Some 10 million North American birds now carry a metal leg band in one of 14 sizes, neck tube, flag, or lightweight radio transmitter. Each one is numbered, and each number is entered in a master computer in Patuxent, Md.

Chapter 3 : Around the NFC East: Birds poised to fly above the trash | NBC Sports Philadelphia

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How Birds Fly It has become a major tool in Muslim dawah "invitation", i. Do they not look at the birds, held poised in the midst of the air and the sky? Nothing holds them up but the power of God. Verily in this are signs for those who believe. A couple of questions to consider: Are airplanes also held in the air only by the power of God? Is every plane that makes it to its destination another unexplainable miracle? Have not scientists and engineers carefully calculated the forces and designed the wings of airplanes in a manner as to carry the plane from continent to continent? Birds fly by the same aerodynamic principles that airplanes use. Humans, physicists and engineers, have studied those principles in detail. They have formulated exact mathematical equations of aerodynamics and based on those equations, they have built airplanes. Muhammad could apparently not imagine that air itself could hold up anything. Everything that one may throw up in the air comes falling down quickly, whether dead things like stones or pieces of wood, or living things like a mouse or a cat. So, he apparently concluded, it must be merely the power of Allah who decided to hold up the birds in the air. He could not see a natural reason. The author of the Quran simply did not understand what is going on. There is still a miracle: God created the physical properties of the air, and the shapes of the birds in this exact way so that they could fly. Believers will still recognize this to be a sign of the existence and wisdom of God. However, the God who designed creation in this way would certainly not have told us that there is no reason in the created order that the birds are able to fly. Although you cannot fly, God created birds in a special form so that the air can carry them. The air carries the birds like the water carries your ships. The people at the time had built ships for centuries and understood that it is a design question that makes ship float on the water. They did not understand the design principles of birds yet. But formulating it in this way, God could have communicated that it is a design issue, and that it is the air that carries the birds. Since flying was not yet understood at the time, a verse like the above could legitimately be seen as giving supernatural insight. It would have made a correct statement in a way the people could have understood, i. All these words and concepts were familiar. There is no reason why the author could not have spoken this way.

Chapter 4 : The Mystery of the Migrating Swans - calendrierdelascience.com

Click to read more about The Birds Poised to Fly [Short Story] by Patricia Highsmith. LibraryThing is a cataloging and social networking site for booklovers.

The mainstream publishers have habitually balked at supporting them in the face of sales figures that compare unfavourably with those of traditional length novels. This has often led authors, particularly crime and mystery ones, to only pen short stories on commission rather than write them out of pure creative enjoyment. Creating a snappy, compelling tale with fascinating characters and quickly weaving it all into a striking conclusion that stays with the reader is no mean feat, and deserves high praise. But some excellent short stories have received more recognition than others, so this feature is to champion my favourite short pieces of fiction that have been underrated " or even criminally neglected " over the years. First published in *The Strand* magazine in , this is an off-beat tale laced with fascinating elements. His father received a similar letter three years previously, as did his uncle five years ago. Each of them died in a suspicious accident a few days after receiving the pips. The day after visiting b Baker Street to see Holmes, a newspaper report reveals that Openshaw himself has been found dead in the River Thames. Shaken by the death, an emotional Holmes tells Watson: When I have spun the web they may take the flies, but not before. *The Birds Poised to Fly*, by Patricia Highsmith A story of a deranged man whose disappointment in love sparks an irrational reaction that leads to a cruel deception, this is Highsmith at her neurotic best. After engaging in a blissful affair with English doctor Kathryn Cohen during a holiday in Italy in the summer of , Highsmith returned to New York and wrote to her. A dejected Don still goes to Grand Central to meet Edith. *The Living Daylights*, by Ian Fleming James Bond is captured in a rare morose mood during this dark, counter-espionage tale that was first published in *The Sunday Times* supplement of 4 February A killer killing a killer. Each night he sees an orchestra arriving and leaving a building opposite for practice, a beautiful blonde cellist among them. Faced with an instant decision and his finger on the trigger, Bond switches aim, shoots the stock of her sub-machine-gun, wounding her hand. The relieved agent makes it back into MI6 hands safe and sound, but Bond gets an earful from top brass for failing to execute the kill. Bond is always at his most compelling through the theme of disobedience, and Fleming exploits that beautifully in this short work. Tension is present from the off when the protagonist, Daniel, is told by a woman regular in his local bar that a couple of guys were in earlier asking after him. Wearing smart suits and ties. A worried Daniel visits his ex-wife, who describes the same guys stopping by earlier looking for him. He takes refuge in the grounds of a large hospital, shifting from one specialist area to another before settling in the vast ICU unit. Daniel, seemingly ignorant of his offence, remains in hiding there, becoming acquainted with family members of critically ill patients in the waiting room, and pretending to be a relative of one himself. His world is now one of helplessness, quiet anticipation and confinement. George knows the boarding house Anderson is staying at and sends Nick over there to warn him. When told about what happened, Anderson is resigned to his fate and tells Nick there is nothing to be done. *Duffers of the Apocalypse*, by Victor Gischler Part of the *Damn Near Dead* anthology, a collection of invigorating short stories based around senior-aged criminals, this story is dripping with smart, black humour. Tony, hinting that he has a bad history with cops, convinces Roscoe and Pete to help bury the guy in the sand. An underlying sense of unease is present throughout as the narrator Jock sits through an uncomfortable meal with his bad-tempered mate Gary, his wife Marge and their young daughter. Later, Gary, recently out of prison for theft, and Jock talk through a plan to scare Tony Whitworth, who owes them two grand. They agree to pay Whitworth a visit that night. Jock turns up with a baseball bat, Gary brings a sawn-off shotgun. Gradually that sense of unease turns into outright menace as Welsh skilfully cranks up the tension, the anxiety and curiosity peaking within the reader, until laying out a shocking and valiant ending where everything is at stake.

Chapter 5 : Patricia Highsmith - IMDb

Looking for a way to feel better about the Birds slow start? That's what the NFC East is for! This past weekend the Giants went down in an amazingly-familiar fashion, the Cowboys head coach showed.

Like when you use your hand to push a door open. How Do Birds Fly? The pressure exerted down by fast moving air red arrows is less than the pressure exerted up by slow moving air green arrows. If you tried the paper activity from the front of this article, you might have been surprised by what happened. In most cases a person would think the paper would go down and not lift up when they blow air across the top. It may not be what you would expect, but it is what birds and planes do to lift off the ground and fly. Blowing faster-moving air above the sheet paper lowered the air pressure above the paper. Now the air pressure below the paper is higher and creates lift. Lift does exactly what it sounds like; it lifts objects off the ground when everything is just right. We blew air over the top of the sheet of paper to create the lower pressure. You cannot do that for birds and planes. Instead, the wing of both birds and planes are shaped so that air passing over the top has to travel a longer distance and so it has to speed up as it goes over the top of the wing. This creates the difference in pressure above and below the wing. Getting the air to move over and under the wing also requires the wing to be moving. This is called thrust. Thrust is created when birds flap their wings using their strong breast muscles. Planes use another method for thrust. These can be either propeller or jet engines. With both birds and planes, thrust is the other part of creating lift and the ability to fly. So the shape of the wing and the ability to move it through the air are the two things needed for bird and plane flight. Birds use their strong breast muscles to flap their wings and give them the thrust to move through the air and fly. In a way, birds use a swimming motion to get the lift needed to fly. Plane wings have a similar shape as bird wings, but instead of flapping their wings, we use engines to thrust them into the air and create the lift needed to fly. They have other great interactive animations , but they do require Flash.

Chapter 6 : Around the NFC East: Birds poised to fly above the trash

Looking for a way to feel better about the Birds slow start? That's what the NFC East is for! This past weekend the Giants went down in an amazingly-familiar fashion, the Cowboys head coach showed fewer guts than a daffodil, and Washington proved themselves a wee bit overrated, specifically.

How about the mythical phoenix, rising from the ashes? For centuries people have wistfully watched birds take wing and felt a bit jealous. Penguin Emperor penguins *Aptenodytes forsteri* in Antarctica. All 18 species of penguin are unable to fly, and are in fact better built for swimming and diving, which they spend the majority of their time doing. Their short legs and stocky build give them a distinctive waddling walk. While people tend to associate penguins with Antarctica, most species live in higher latitudes. A few even live in temperate climates, and the Galapagos penguin actually lives at the Equator. These birds are also remarkably romantic—penguins are largely monogamous and seek out the same mates each season, even among the hundreds or even thousands of birds that might live in their colony. Steamer duck Steamer duck *Tachyeres*. Even within the flighted species, some males are too heavy to actually achieve liftoff. These South American ducks earned their name by running across water and thrashing their wings like the wheels on a steamboat. They use them for other forms of thrashing, too. Famously aggressive, steamer ducks are known to engage in epic, bloody battles with each other over territory disputes. They have even been known to kill waterbirds several times their size. Weka The weka is another bird of New Zealand. This brown, chicken-sized bird was an important resource for native New Zealanders and European settlers, but is now decreasing in number. While they may look unremarkable, weka have a loud call that males and females sing as a duet. Weka are skilled swimmers, too. Ostrich The mighty ostrich is truly the king of birds. The largest living bird, ostriches can grow up to 9 feet tall and weigh more than pounds. Their powerful legs can kick in defense, and they can run at speeds up to 45 miles per hour across the open lands of Africa, where they live. Kiwi The kiwi is the national symbol of New Zealand. They have hidden vestigial wings and soft, hairlike feathers. Unlike other birds, kiwis have their nostrils on the tip of their bills, instead of at the base. These odd little birds are worth admiring, though—the females lay eggs that can be up to 1 pound in weight. Relative to the size of the bird, this is the biggest egg of any living species. It is truly a strange bird—but also a beautiful one, with bright green-brown feathers. The males make a distinctive booming call that sounds like a one-bird jug band, which can be heard up to half a mile away! Takahe Takahe *Notornis mantelli* G. Roberts This mid-size bird of New Zealand is a hide-and-seek master. It was thought to be extinct from the late s until it was suddenly rediscovered in And for a bird, the takahe has remarkable longevity—it can live up to 20 years. Cassowary southern cassowary *Casuarius casuarius*. This giant bird, a native of Australia and the surrounding islands, is in the heavyweight class. The only bird heavier is the ostrich. These birds sport colorful helmets, or casques, made of keratin like human fingernails. And their plush back feathers kind of look like glamorous fur capes.

Chapter 7 : The Birds Poised to Fly [Short Story] by Patricia Highsmith | LibraryThing

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Chapter 8 : The Birds (play) - Wikipedia

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Chapter 9 : "Mistress of Suspense" A Bird Poised to Fly (TV Episode) - IMDb

Snowy Plover chicks are among the most endearing of all birds. But they're also very vulnerable, as this story shows. A conservation technician for ABC and Houston Audubon, Kristen Vale monitors key areas along the upper Texas coast of the Gulf of Mexico to gather information about imperiled beach-nesting bird species and to educate the public on how to share the beach with the birds.