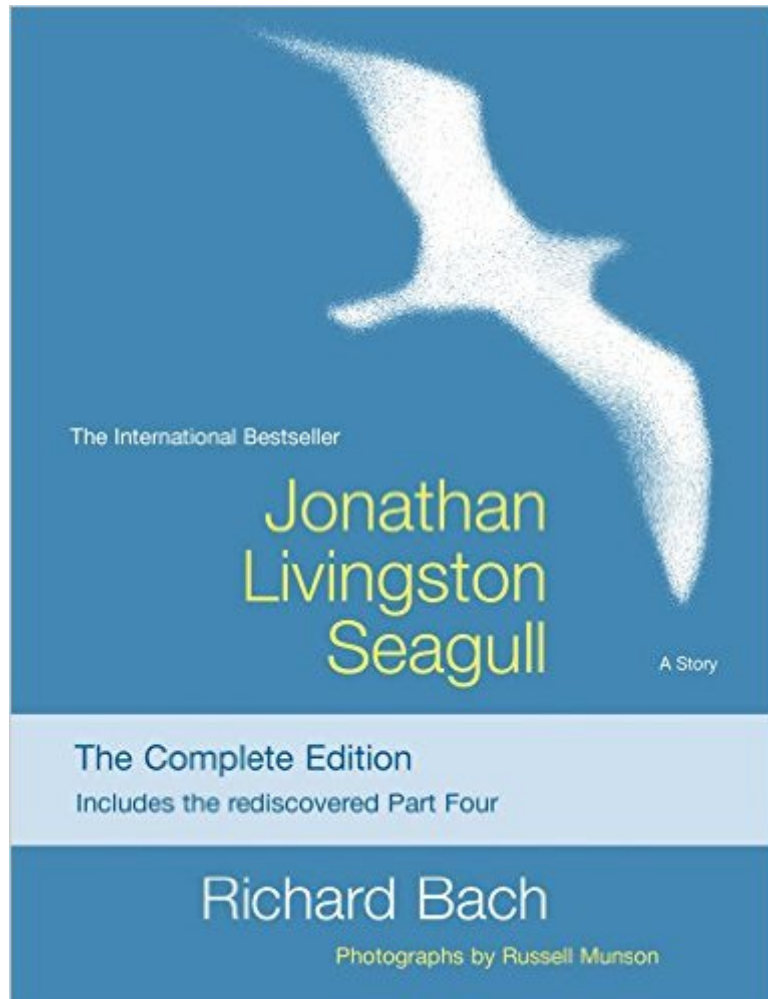


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# Jonathan Livingston Seagull: The Complete Edition



## Synopsis

The new complete edition of a timeless classic that includes the never-before-published Part Four and Last Words by Richard Bach. This is the story for people who follow their hearts and make their own rulesâpeople who get special pleasure out of doing something well, even if only for themselvesâpeople who know thereâs more to this living than meets the eye: theyâll be right there with Jonathan, flying higher and faster than they ever dreamed. A pioneering work that wed graphics with words, Jonathan Livingston Seagull now enjoys a whole new life.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (231 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

I read "Seagull" many tears ago and have never forgotten the message that the author sends in that wonderful little book. I have given the book as a gift many times. I am retired now, 85 years old. One day recently I thought of the book and how its story had boosted me over low points in my life so many times. I realized it was no longer on my shelf so I got on and ordered another copy right away. I have read it twice in recent days. I know it is a fictional story but the message it sends is overwhelmingly good for the soul. Wayne Guthrie Memphis, TN

I recently re-read this great book because I saw that there is now the additional Part Four (and an afterword that tells why/how, after 40 years, it has been added - Nice!). I decided to read and enjoy the book again - absorbing the message newly, smile at the "original" end (as I knew I would) and,

then, read the new part and the added afterword. Without any doubt, JLS is one of the best - if not the best - "messengers" for the idea that we... Ayy! Read it! Enjoy the message your way! JLS ends wonderfully in Part Three, which is the way anyone would have gotten it before 2014. The new part is a nice addition. The newly added Part Four looked like it was going to be mildly superfluous - right up until the last page; however, I could see why it was originally written and originally not included. I am glad that it was added and glad that he didn't add it until now. Now, it is timely (in my opinion). I am also more than glad that he included the explanatory afterword, called "Last Words". Something that I noticed this time, having read "Illusions" many times since reading JLS, is that "Illusions" really does fill out the concept that JLS gives. He states as much in the "Illusions" foreword and while re-reading JLS, I easily and comfortably saw the clarifying and concept-extending nature of "Illusions". I used to call "Illusions" my favorite book - bar none, but I now look at JLS and "Illusions", together, as my favorite: the first sets up the second and, to me, does it such that they take on a character where their combination is more exhilarating than either one by itself. That is pretty cool (to me)! Enjoy!

This is a version that includes a lot of material edited out of the original. I don't think this adds a single thing to the story, which was perfect as previously told in the original edition. The added material is largely redundant and superfluous. The added material also adds a lot of needless religious links that subtract from the universality of the knowledge conveyed in the original edition. This book was one of the best stories of the decade. This new edition hacks it up and tries to beat the religion and anti-religion drum. Save yourself a lot of disappointment and aggravation - just read the original. This one needs the good editing it got when it was first published.

Much as I loved the original, for it's allegoric value and depth, the complete version actually loses on deeper message the original conveyed. There is a saying that says, something is not perfect when there is nothing more you can add to it, but when there is nothing that you can take from it. This falls firmly in that category. Still, enjoyable, but recommended only for us hard core fans of Richard Bach.

More than sixty million people worldwide have read this book since it first came out in 1970, and there's a reason for that or maybe lots of reasons. I always felt I had to defend my liking it, especially as years passed, but I never minded defending it because I thought, and still think, that it captures the essence of something we all need to live well. To hear that a part four had been

added--one that had been written back then--was certainly intriguing. In light of Mr. Bach's plane crash and recovery, it was also unsettling. Who is he now? We had no way of knowing. Having read the new edition, I can say I still like it, which to me means it still has the magic that stays with me, that says: "Better not to exist at all than to exist like seaweed, without meaning or joy." I hope Mr. Bach continues to write.

The original edition of Jonathan Livingston Seagull was comprised of three parts, and has remained in continual print world wide since 1970. However, author Richard Bach also wrote a Part Four at the same time as the first three, but decided back then not to include it in the book. He explains why in his Last Word commentary at the end of this New Complete Edition which is comprised of all four parts. Part Four resonates even more today than when it was written some 45 years ago. I was blown away by it. What a prescient final chapter to this ageless masterpiece. Richard Bach's beautifully written story, now complete, touches the heart of all who seek the freedom to live as who they truly are. The photographs illustrating the story aren't bad, either.

My brother recommended this book to me and it has to be one of the best recommendations I've ever received. First of all, it takes a certain skill to tell a captivating and complete story within a few short chapters. I read the book in an hour and the messages conveyed in the storyline will stay with me a LIFETIME. The courage to live beyond self imposed or society imposed limits, to constantly question what more you can do, and, in the end, to reach a higher level of consciousness AND compassion toward others is perfectly told in this story. Beautifully written - the deep lessons of Jon Seagull are lessons every human should practice. And, I'll never look at seagulls the same way again.

8\*( There was a reason this book wasn't published as 'complete' in the first place... Don't read it if you love the original. I wish I could unread it...but I can't, and I find it hard to love the book like I used to, now that I know that this is where it was going.\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE: The 'complete' edition - this one you're looking at now - came out in 2014. For some reason has lumped all the reviews from the original version written in 1975 in with this version.

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