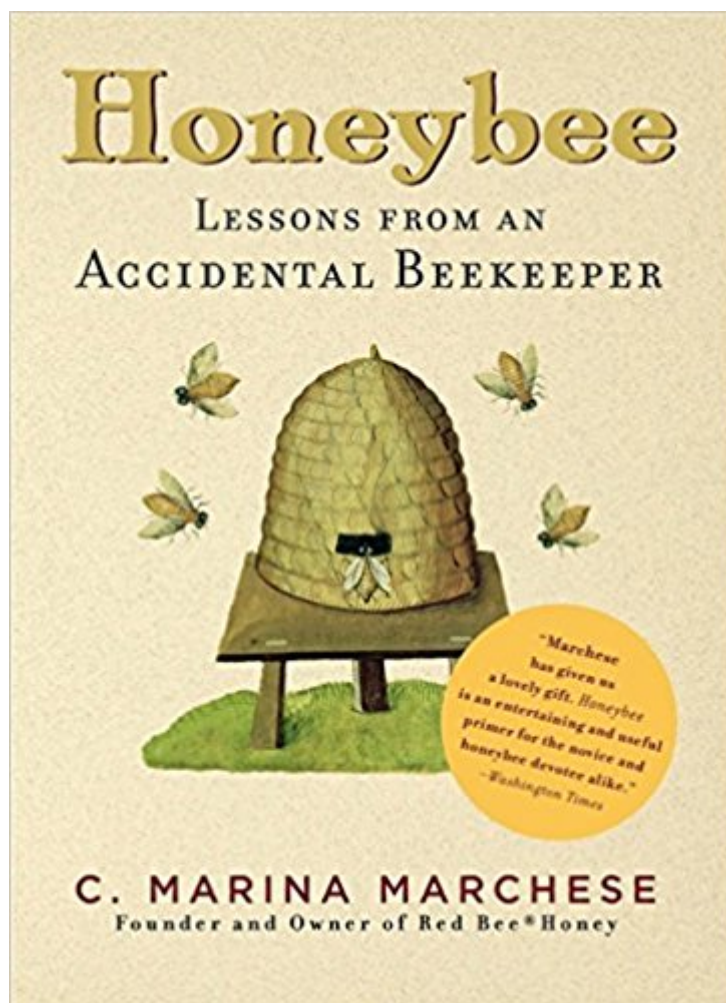


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# Honeybee: Lessons From An Accidental Beekeeper



## Synopsis

Marina Marchese's inspirational and practical story of learning to raise honeybees and creating a life she loves. "[An] engaging, delightfully informative work." - Publishers Weekly "Marchese has given us a lovely gift. Honeybee is an entertaining and useful primer for the novice and honeybee devotee alike." - Washington Times "Surpassing the predictable "how I changed careers" memoir of finding the good life, Marchese's informative guide is packed with facts about everything from pollination to harvesting, life cycles to historical lore, nutritional benefits to gourmet flavor combinations, medical applications to unusual varieties." - Booklist Marina Marchese fell in love with bees during a tour of a neighbor's honeybee hives. She quit her job, acquired her own bees, built her own hives, harvested honey, earned a certificate in apitherapy, studied wine tasting in order to transfer those skills to honey tasting, and eventually opened her own honey business. Today, Red Bee® Honey sells artisanal honey and honey-related products to shops and restaurants all over the country. More than an inspiring story of one woman's transformative relationship with honeybees (some of nature's most fascinating creatures), Honeybee is also bursting with information about all aspects of bees, beekeeping, and honey—including life inside the hive; the role of the queen, workers, and drones; pollination and its importance to sustaining all life; the culinary pleasures of honey; hiving and keeping honeybees; the ancient practice of apitherapy, or healing with honey, pollen, and bee venom; and much more. Recipes for food and personal care products appear throughout. Also included is an excellent, one-of-a-kind appendix that lists 75 different honey varieties, with information on provenance, tasting notes, and food-and-wine pairings.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Nine years ago, from her home in Connecticut, Marchese, then a creative director for a giftware company, became a beekeeper and honey entrepreneur. In this engaging, delightfully informative work, she recounts how visits to the apiaries of the neighboring community's Back Yard Beekeepers overcame her initial trepidation of bees as she learned about the industry and craftsmanship of these insects and became bowled over by the taste of fresh honey. Step by step she explains how she got started as a beekeeper, from studying bee anatomy and hive organization, to ordering equipment online such as her Langstroth hive, a smoker (to calm the bees while working) and protective clothing. She had to learn to pour her three pounds of live Italian honeybees into the hive (the first time she got stung six times), while carefully introducing the all-powerful queen. Marchese is fascinated by the marvels of bee behavior— "pollen foraging, dances, swarming"—and imparts as well a goodly bit of bee history. She offers plenty of her own honey-beeswax concoctions, both edible and cosmetic, with excellent appendixes on the varietals of honey. (Sept.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

C. Marina Marchese is the founder and owner of Red Bee Honey, which sells honey and natural products to gourmet food shops and fine restaurants all over the United States. (www.redbee.com) Certified by the American Apitherapy Society, she has trained as a honey judge at the University of Georgia and serves on the board of the Back Yard Beekeepers Association of Connecticut. Marina has written for Bee Culture magazine and The Journal of American Apitherapy Society, and Red Bee Honey was the cover story of the American Bee Journal in 2004. A graduate of the School of Visual Arts in New York City, she is also an award-winning illustrator and designer. Marina lives and tends bees in Weston, Connecticut.

This was not the best book I have read in this genre, but I did enjoy parts of it. Part of the problem is that the books did not seem to know what it wanted to be. It started out as a memoir on how the author got into beekeeping, then it flirted with being a beekeeping manual without quite enough details. For a while I felt that it was an advertisement for the author's line of natural bee products that I am not familiar with, and then it turned into a review of honeys around the world with a pitch that honey should be as competitive as fine wines. Any of those books would have been fine, but

the odd mixture of incomplete parts left me feeling that it was not well laid out, and it definitely needed more editing. There is an interesting index of world famous honeys in the back, and it does mention my personal favorite Tasmanian Leatherwood Honey (perhaps because I have not tried many of the others, but Leatherwood is excellent) so I liked that part. I expected the book to be more like the excellent, though obscure *Being: Life, Motherhood, and 180,000 Honeybees* by Rosanne Daryl Thomas which I read a few years ago and absolutely loved (5 stars), but this book was not nearly so inspiring. If you liked this book, please find a copy of *Being* as it is a much better book in this genre. If you want a better book on the different types of honey in the world, I recommend *The Honey Trail: In Pursuit of Liquid Gold and Vanishing Bees* by Grace Pundyk which is a fascinating travel tale sampling the honeys of the world and where they come from with many more details than this book.

Marchese does a fantastic job of combining essential beekeeping information with anecdotes that keep the reader interested. She offers helpful tips and hints for those pursuing the career of "accidental beekeeper" as well as just enough explanation for those not delving into the art. A great read and a useful resource.

Good book for those starting out to get an idea of what to expect. That said, read it as a story NOT as a beginning beekeeping book. The book style is disorganized as a beekeeping book, but reasonably good flow as a story. There are numerous mistakes regarding hive management and currently understood "best practices". The author mistakes procedures that are to be used as diagnosis for treatments and recommends risky inspection practices. The most disappointing part are the chapters regarding Apitherapy, medicinal uses of honey (such as using it to "heal you stomach ulcers" and "boost your immunity") and other well discredited uses of honey and products of the hive. Being a beekeeper I would love to sell honey as medicine and get even more for the sale. The truth is that none of the claims have any validity and we as beekeepers should be the ones telling the truth. Honey, pollen and other hive products are wonderful things but misrepresenting them to sell something is flat wrong. The book is written to sell honey and promote Ms. Marchese's which is obvious from the prominent Red Bee Honey notation on the front cover, but hey that's why people write books. Ms. Marchese writes a good story and is accurate for most of the basics and history. Just skip the last few chapters of snake oil.

I've read a large amount of books pertaining to bees and bee keeping over the years but I've never

enjoyed one this much! The author tells the story of her journey into bee keeping in such a warm and friendly manner that it's impossible not to be drawn into the story within the first few pages. Although this is not the standard how-to book on bee keeping, New comers to the hobby will gain a lot of insights into the workings of a honey bee colony as well as enjoy the recipes scattered throughout the book to try with your own or market purchased honey. I've kept bees for many years and the author's triumphs as well as her mistakes during the early learning process brought back fond memories of trying to fathom the workings of my first colony and has renewed my appreciation for these hard working little creatures. If you're a beginning or lifelong bee keeper or are just interested in how that jar of honey gets to your table, This is a must read book that you'll be glad you picked up.

I thoroughly enjoyed the peek inside a world that is fascinating...for anyone wanting to begin beekeeping i can not think of anything better than to take the journey with Marina, the Accidental Beekeeper. The book kept my interest throughout, and i enjoyed the little tidbits that taught me how great Beekeeping could be. As a "wannabee" I went on the adventure by reading her informative, entertaining, realistic Lessons...It certainly made me aware of how important bees are to our world, and how important it is to keep them alive...They are important to each of us,, daily, and their honey serves many many purposes, culinary and holistically...Thank you Marina for sharing so generously your dream, knowledge, insight and enthusiasm for the wonderful world of Bees! I follow her progress daily and am watching and applauding her growth.....

I wanted a nice introduction to beekeeping and this fit the bill. A great read about her journey into beekeeping and some nice recipes along the way. To be fair, it was my first reading on the subject so I had nothing to compare it to. All in all a nice little read for those novices who want to learn a bit more about the honey bee.

Excellent item and packaging!

I bought this book to read for our Garden Club's book club. It is absolutely fantastic! The writer does an excellent job in educating the reader all about bees, honey, beehives, and a wide variety of bee related information in the form of a very interesting story. Once I started reading I didn't want to put it down. I was expecting a boring book about bees and was happily surprised. Our book club will meet later this month (Jan 2012) and since we're in Connecticut we've arranged for the author to come to

our meeting where we will discuss her book and she'll sign our books. I can't wait!

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