



# The Falklands Summer

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~~Editor's Choice:~~

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

0

John Branfield's work has always had my wholehearted approval, but this latest book lacks the fluency - and to some extent the conviction - apparent in, for example, **The Fox in Winter** and more notably **The Day I Shot My Dad**. **The Falklands Summer** is redolent of post-examination languor and the restlessness engendered by a long, empty summer. Matthew Walker has finished his examinations and his mind is full of the Falklands conflict, eager for heroic action. His chance soon comes in the shape of a new and unsympathetic local landowner who thoughtlessly begins to clear a wood and surrounding moorlands for building purposes. The man's lack of regard for local feeling and the plight of wild animals denied their natural habitat stimulate Matthew to devise a plan to assert the power of local identity. Accompanied by his friends, he attempts a dangerous night-time swim to Gull Island to claim it for the Cornish community but the attempt ends in disaster. Branfield raises many thought-provoking issues, not least those of loyalty and identity, but his usual effortless style seems clipped and tense, almost jarring on the reader on occasion. **The Falklands Summer** should be read - 3rd and 4th year boys will enjoy it enormously - but not as an example of Branfield's best work.

Running Order:

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