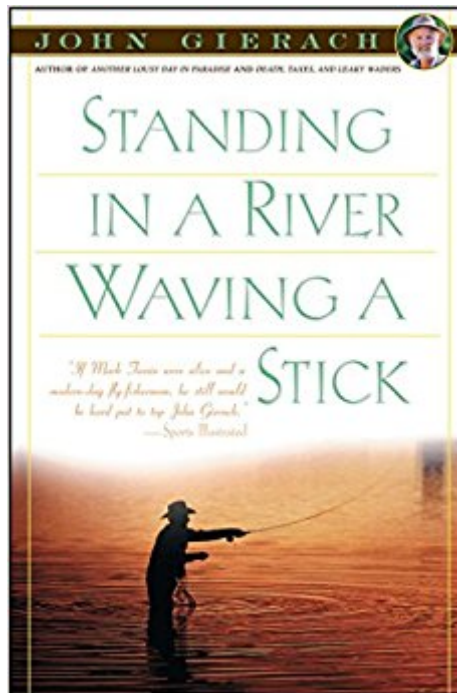




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Standing In A River Waving A Stick



Synopsis

Brilliant, witty, perceptive essays about fly-fishing, the natural world, and life in general by the acknowledged master of fishing writers. With his inimitable combination of wit and wisdom, John Gierach once again celebrates the fly-fishing life in *Standing in a River Waving a Stick* and notes its benefits as a sport, philosophical pursuit, even therapy: "The solution to any problem—work, love, money, whatever—is to go fishing, and the worse the problem, the longer the trip should be." After all, fly-fishing does teach important life lessons, says Gierach—about solitude, patience, perspective, humor, and the sublime coffee break. Recounting both memorable fishing spots and memorable fish, Gierach discusses what makes a good fly pattern, the ethics of writing about undiscovered trout waters, the dread of getting skunked, and the camaraderie of fellow fishermen who can end almost any conversation with "Well, it's sort of like fishing, isn't it?" Reflecting on a lifetime of lessons learned at the end of a fly rod, Gierach concludes, "The one inscription you don't want carved on your tombstone is 'The Poor Son of a Bitch Didn't Fish Enough.'" Fortunately for Gierach fans, this is not likely to happen.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

John Gierach, America's favorite trout bum and author of such wise and humorous collections as *Dances with Trout* and *Sex, Death, and Fly-Fishing*, sets this volume in motion by testing the waters of the philosophical stream: "Lately," he ponders, "I've been thinking about what makes a good

fly-fisher, possibly the last fair question of the twentieth century that might actually have an answer." In searching for that answer, he naturally begins to spin his reels, firm in the belief that the solution to any question or problem is to go fishing, "and the worse the problem, the longer the trip should be." Of course, Gierach's life is one extended fishing trip, so he sets out for pools and streams from Montana and Michigan to British Columbia and his own Colorado, musing along the way on subsets of that last fair question like technique versus inner grace, the number of fish you actually catch, the stories you come home with, and the company you choose to cast your lot--and flies--with. As expected with Gierach, the essays of this spirited array are less answers in themselves than provocatively enjoyable journeys through a richly literate and detailed landscape of interesting bugs (the chapter called "Boatmen"), obsessions ("Getting Stuck"), local streams ("Taking It Personally"), and even a memorial service held off until the fish were biting ("Jordan River"). In the end, Gierach is left where he began, "certain that on the day I become a truly sublime fly-fisher, all my failings will be overshadowed and all my demons will swim under rocks and stay there until I go away." Until that day comes, he'll just have to take solace from the way he continues to hook us pleasurably on the natural resources of his own prose. --Jeff Silverman --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Everything from bears to the mysterious ways of ornery trout comes under the attention of Gierach in this lighthearted collection of essays, which is less concerned with the craft of fly-fishing than with the gestalt. Gierach (Another Lousy Day in Paradise, etc.) does hold forth on tying flies, watching bugs and other aspects of the fisherman's art, particularly the equipment. Fly-fishing in remote areas calls for packing such necessities as an emergency fire-starting kit, a sweater and a coffeepot. For Gierach, fishing in the backcountry often leads "to excuses to stage an elaborate coffee break in a stunningly beautiful place miles from the nearest road, which makes the coffeepot as crucial as the fly rod." He is at his most interestingAand interestedAwhen he turns into a riverbank philosopher. In the end, getting the fly to the fish may be a goal but not necessarily the essence of fishing, notes Gierach, who admits that he prefers to eat wild red meat and fowlAeven though fish is brain food "and I could use the help." Readers won't find Gierach's favorite streams and ponds (he deliberately doesn't tell) or how to tie a #20 Olive Parachute, but they will get a folksy earful on how fishing is similar to the way a dog follows its master "with nothing much in mind except to see what's gonna happen next." Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This can be both good and bad. As someone who has struggled with the desire to spend time on rivers more than life's responsibilities allow, it can cause some personal struggles. On the other hand, it's just what the doctor would order to create a better balanced life. I know I'll never satiate my desire to be on a trout stream - at least for as long as I am working on a full time basis, have family demands and community commitments . It is inspiring to read about someone who lives life simply enough to make spending time on the river (lake or pond) a priority, not knowing for sure why.

JOHN you thieving bass turf, you plagiarized all my dreams so now I can just curl up with nothing to look forward to since you depicted all the beauty, mystery, challenges, excitement and sublime imagery for me. My only salvation is that you'll still be out there living the dream with that willow branch in your hand and feeding some fish for the rest of us. "Gone Fishing ... Again". Rock on John!

Bought this for my boyfriend who is an avid fisherman he LOVES this book. He is constantly reading me excerpts and they are really interesting and often make me laugh. He intends to buy many many more of John Gierach's books! He without hesitation gave this 5 stars and as a big reader I trusted his judgement :) Enjoy!

As with Gierach's other books, I found "Standing In a River Waving a Stick to be entertaining as well as enlightening. He seems to have a way to write about fly fishing and life in a special way. If you love fly fishing or have never tried it, I think you will enjoy this book as well as his other books!

To be honest, I'm a fan. This is the second time reading this book. Not only that I pick up more of the details, but also getting more of the humor. Things better than reading the author's book are good s@x and fishing.

I took this book on vacation with me and started to read it on the plane. By the time we landed I couldn't put it down. I'm glad I brought other books because I finished this one in no time. I would highly recommend this book and all of John Gierach's books.

The title says it all as far as I am concerned as it is 'anthropomorphized' into the bubble above the heads of two coyotes, apparently watching someone stand in a river while waving a stick.

Book came in excellent condition, just as advertised.

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