

Catch and Release: Trout Fishing and the Meaning of Life

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Main content

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CATCH AND RELEASE: Trout Fishing and the Meaning of Life. By Mark Kingwell. Viking. 242 pp. \$21.95

Books populated by brothers, fathers, and fish invariably elicit comparisons to Norman McLean's poetic memoir *A River Runs Through It* (1976). *Catch and Release* has those elements, though not the larger-than-life loggers, Indians, prostitutes, and poker players of McLean's Montana youth. But like McLean, University of Toronto philosophy professor Mark Kingwell skillfully merges fishing with insights about love and loss, nature and human finitude, and grace and patience.

Kingwell emphasizes from the start that "This Book Is Not About Fishing," as he titles the first chapter, but rather about "thinking about fishing." The narrative spools...

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In *Catch and Release*, philosopher Mark Kingwell has written a book about fishing, or more accurately, about thinking about fishing that is unlike any book ever penned about this most unique and challenging of sports. This vibrant blend of memoir, travelogue, reflection, and discussion of the finer points of the art is framed around an annual fishing trip that he and his father and two brothers take each year to British Columbia. Between the drinking, cigars, and the piloting of a small dingy, Kingwell, previously of the belief that fishing is stupid," finds that the sport does allow for one i... Especially when the trout aren't biting. Product Identifiers. Publisher. *Catch & Release* uses trout fishing as an analogy of life. The chapters contains stories/comments about fishing, golf, history, philosophy, relationships and life in general. I did not like the way the book was structured, because the different topics appeared randomly within a chapter. I felt like I was in front of a pinball machine entitled *Catch & Release*. While not your typical fly fishing book, the little book offers a great read that

spans many facets of life that we all encounter--and does so with a sense of humor. Offering a rather unique voice and perspective in the world of fly fishing literature, Kingwell has produces a work worth reading probably more than once. flag Like · see review. May 12, 2012 J. rated it did not like it.