

Fishing Stories

Edited by Henry Hughes

Everyman's Pocket Classics, Alfred A. Knopf, \$15



I've never been a big fan of compilations. They're like "greatest hits" albums. Sure, they're perfectly useful and they offer great bang for the buck. But there comes a point when you wonder how many are made specifically for that purpose. Publishers can recycle and repackage tried and true material with little risk, and sometimes that lack of fresh sizzle shows in the finished product.

Fishing Stories, however, is a notable exception. It may, in fact be the most compelling collection of stories on fishing that I've ever read. It's an outstanding mosaic of fishing literature, clearly, carefully selected by editor Henry Hughes, who is a professor of English at Western Oregon University.

While the subjects range on all forms of fishing, from "The Dream Carp," penned by Ueda Akinari in 1769 to tales from literary icons like Washington Irving, and Rudyard Kipling, fly fishing does indeed play a prominent role. The book rightfully includes masters of fly

writing, like Thomas McGuane, Ted Leeson, Nick Lyons, and David James Duncan. There are also classic voices, like Ernest Hemingway, Zane Grey, and Roderick Haig-Brown.

The excerpted section of Norman Maclean's *A River Runs Through It* isn't the part of that novella you might assume. Indeed, the choice shows far more precision and purpose than most editors might muster, and as such, should be rightfully appreciated.

I carried this book as I travelled via 11 flights through 10 time zones to Russia and back home, picking and piecing—sometimes re-reading—as I went. And in the end, was left with the strong impression that fishing is a cultural art form that transcends time and geography. This book is a glorious work that rightfully belongs in any thinking angler's permanent collection.

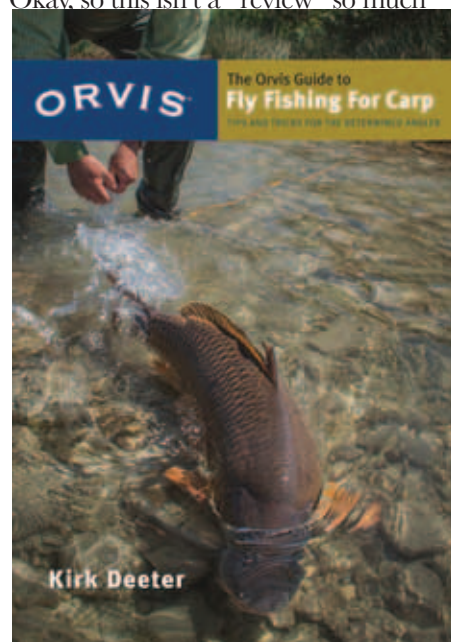
-Kirk Deeter

The Orvis Guide to Fly Fishing for Carp

By Kirk Deeter

Stonefly Press, \$22.95

Okay, so this isn't a "review" so much



as it is a shameless plug, begging friends in the fly-fishing industry to sell my new book. Or at least read this book. I'm honest about that, if nothing else.

So what compels the editor of *TROUT* magazine (and also *Angling Trade*) to write a book on carp fishing? Have I completely lost my mind?

Don't answer that.

Let me simply explain that, for those of you who have read my opinions, in here, in *Field & Stream*, on the Fly Talk blog and elsewhere, I have been very consistent with my affection for the world's most notorious "trash fish." For two reasons: They are found almost everywhere, and you have to learn to be a good fly angler in order to catch them on the fly.

This might seem a stretch to some, but I happen to think that fly fishing for carp can take angler pressure off of trout.

I also think fly fishing for carp can help fly fishing retailers, particularly those that aren't nestled on the bank of a blue ribbon trout stream, or adjacent to the saltwater flats. I believe that the more we as an industry embrace carp, the more opportunity we can offer to anglers, and the more we can improve their abilities.

So I set out, with the help of Stonefly Press, and later, Orvis, to produce a new book on carp that covers the "why" of carp fishing, as well as the "how" as thoroughly as I could. Am I the most savvy carp angler in the country? Hell no. But I'm a decent writer, and I know who the best carp anglers in the country are... so I asked them about the nuances of carping in fine detail.

I must say, I am proud of the finished product. I like how it looks. I am very grateful to the many people who helped pull this together. And I think it will be a win-win for those who sell it and read it. 🐟