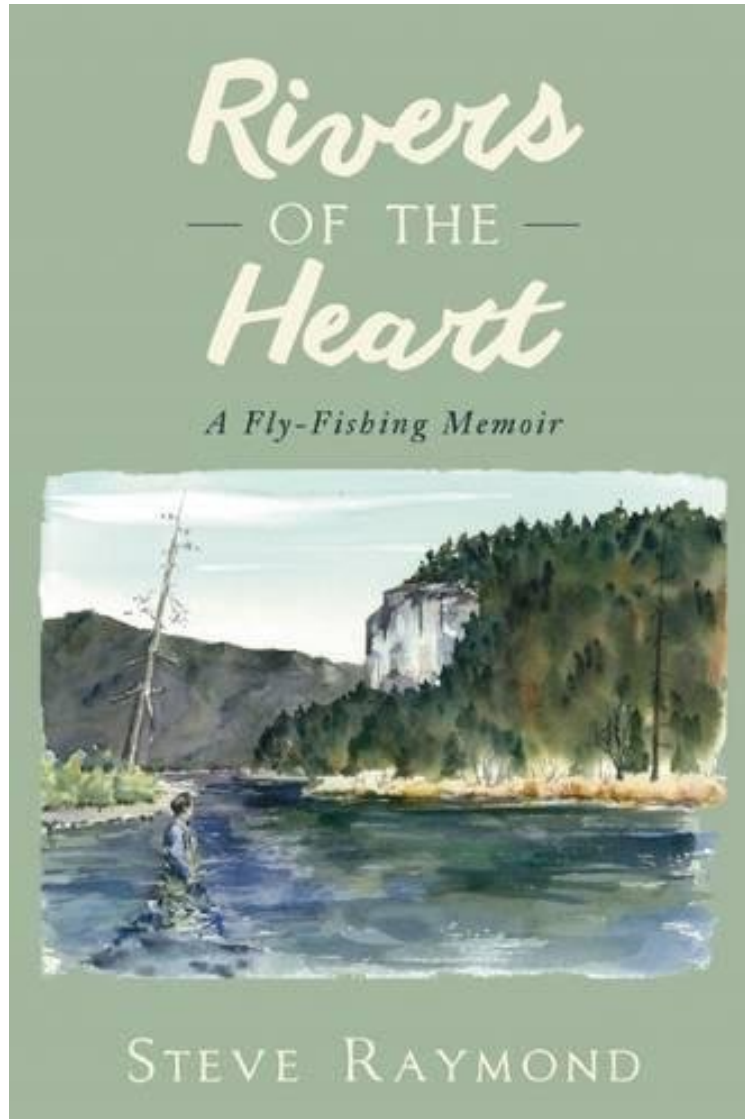


(Mobile book) Rivers of the Heart: A Fly-Fishing Memoir

Rivers of the Heart: A Fly-Fishing Memoir

Steve Raymond

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Steve Raymond : Rivers of the Heart: A Fly-Fishing Memoir before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rivers of the Heart: A Fly-Fishing Memoir:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fly Fishing MotivationBy mosaicI have three of Steve Raymond's books which document his fly fishing memories and experiences. I use them as motivation for getting out of the house and on the water. Raymond's accounts can get tiresome if read all at once. However, a story here and there is just right. The writing style can be stilted at times, but I am convinced the author's heart and soul are in the right place.

Stories are what keep history alive, and *Rivers of the Heart* is the perfect book to keep the history of fly fishing alive. Steve Raymond shares some of the best and brightest moments from his nearly fifty years of fly-fishing experiences, a long fly-fishing life that contains ecstasy, agony, and passion for trout, salmon, and saltwater gamefish in waters from Canada to the Caribbean, northern Scotland to the South Pacific. The heart-warming stories and funny moments within will delight and charm you to no end. Memorable fly-fishing partners, famous pioneer fly tyers, and old fishing friends are only a few of the charming characters you'll meet. How did fly patterns get their names? What would the perfect river be like? What would Dame Juliana Berners be doing if she were alive today? Discover the answers to all of these questions and more in this warmly written memoir of the people, places, things, realities, and fantasies encountered by the author in his lifetime of fishing he now remembers as his rivers of the heart. Skyhorse Publishing is proud to publish a broad range of books for fishermen. Our books for anglers include titles that focus on fly fishing, bait fishing, fly-casting, spin casting, deep sea fishing, and surf fishing. Our books offer both practical advice on tackle, techniques, knots, and more, as well as lyrical prose on fishing for bass, trout, salmon, crappie, baitfish, catfish, and more. While not every title we publish becomes a New York Times bestseller or a national bestseller, we are committed to publishing books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked by other publishers and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home.

From Publishers Weekly Fly-fishermen will enjoy this essay collection by the author of *Steelhead Country* and former editor of *Fly-fisher* magazine. There is the obligatory chapter on quaint characters, often laconic and monomaniacal veterans of the ichthyological wars but here broadened to include two visiting Russian opera stars who try their luck in the Pacific Northwest, Raymond's home territory. Four chapters on fishing expeditions to exotic locales: A Christmas Island, the River Dee in Scotland, Turneffe Island off Belize and the Miramichi River in New Brunswick. A will interest those who have never fished and don't know a bonefish from a salmon, because all make for fascinating travelogues. The subject of fishing is approached in many ways, from a discussion of the problems inherent in reviewing books on the subject through the life-cycle of the mayfly; to bamboo rods and the explosion of fly-fishing in the 1970s; to a portrait of the perfect river. There are informative snippets of information throughout, like the first literary mention of fishing with lures, which dates from the third century A.D. Kristopherson's line drawings add to the book's appeal. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist With more than 50 years of fly-fishing behind him and nearly as many years writing about it, Raymond has penned an informative, impassioned memoir about this all-consuming sport. He remembers his many fishing pals, especially Ward, with his very twisted sense of humor. More touching, though, is the brief biography of an angler Raymond never met, Bill Nation, once the country's premier fly-fisher. Nation died in 1940, and some 50 years later, a friend of Raymond's calls with a startling bit of news--the friend has been given an old trunk filled with Nation's fly-tying equipment. Raymond's description of their unloading of the antique equipment is nothing short of loving. There's some pointed commentary here, too, as when Raymond takes the outdoor publishing industry to task for, well, publishing some pretty lousy writers. Raymond's eloquent book proves that he's not among that group. Brian McCombie From Kirkus sDry, intelligent recollections of a fly-fishing life, from Raymond (*Steelhead Country*, not reviewed, etc.). Raymond has cobbled together 16 essays, grouped under four categories: fishing acquaintances, venues (the Miramichi, Christmas Island, the River Dee, and others), items (flies, cane rods, and an odd-man-out piece on reviewing fishing books), and a mostly humorous miscellany. For Raymond, who has been editing and writing fishing material almost as long as he has been fishing (though he makes his living as a newspaperman), this is not a greatest hits collection--there are winners and losers in each section. Rather, the essays are bound together by their honesty and practicality and in their desire to convey the boundless, multihued fascinations of a day astream, even when it features kidney stone torment, rattlesnakes, poison ivy, and dog feces all in an afternoon. As with any fishing book that isn't afraid to float a position, readers will find much to quibble with: which writers on fly fishing are worth reading (he suspiciously neglects Thomas McGuane, Jim Harrison, Bill Barich, and Datus Proper, perhaps because Raymond is a bit prim), the claim that class status isn't a consideration when choosing a fishing buddy, or the inconceivable statement that he liked the movie *A River Runs Through It* better than Norman Maclean's book. There are times when his prose comes empurpledeach wave driven by the pulsing energy of the world's great hidden heart but not enough to be mortifying. There are other times when the writing feels like a plug for a lodge: "The 12 guest rooms had been outfitted with air-conditioning units and new queen-sized beds." But for the most part, these are good fishing stories: glorious locales, smartly observed; a wealth of arcana and history and self-deprecating humor. And it doesn't hurt that he can turn a decent phrase. -- Copyright 1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.