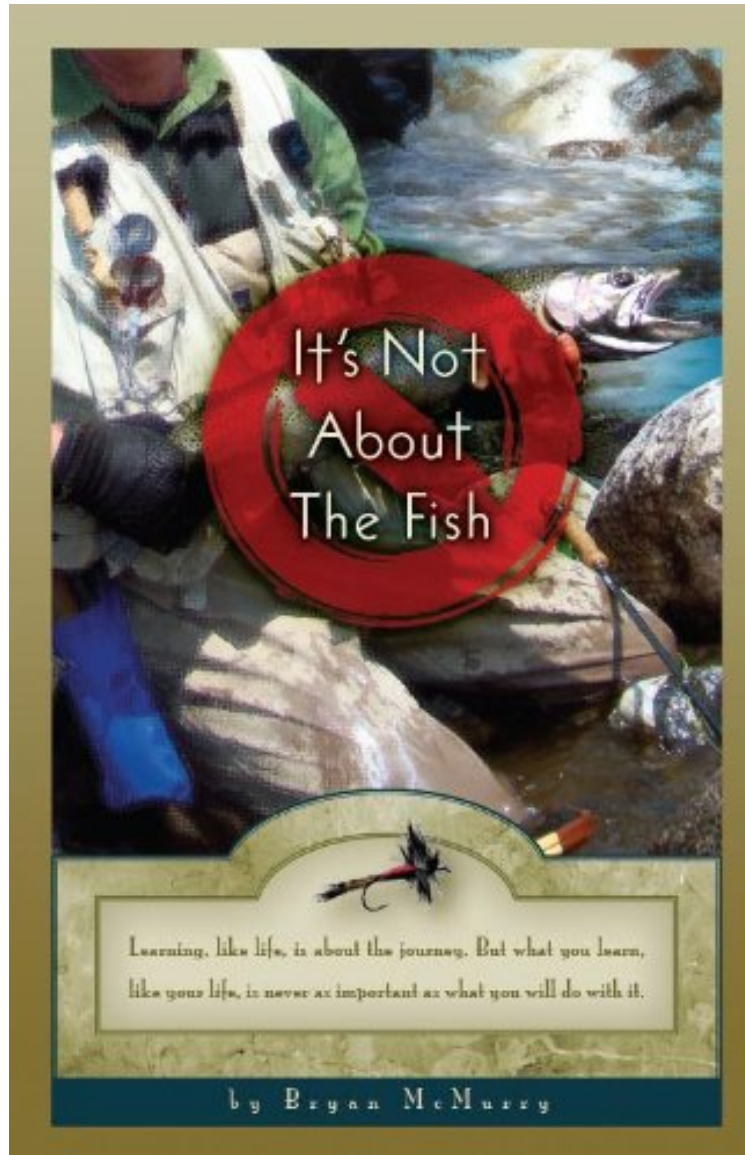


[Mobile book] It's Not about the Fish

## It's Not about the Fish

*Bryan McMurry*

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#3273426 in Books 2010-02-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x .45 x 5.511, .56 #File Name: 0982612001196 pages | File size: 54.Mb

**Bryan McMurry : It's Not about the Fish** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised It's Not about the Fish:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. One StarBy Thomas R. LovettBAD1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. NO, IT IS ABOUT SO VERY MUCH MORE THAN JUST THE FISH. One of the best reads I have had in a long, long whileBy D. BlankenshipIf I should every decide to write a book about my experiences

over the years chasing trout here and there, I would be perfectly satisfied if the completed volume would be just one half as good as this work written by Bryan McMurry. I have read and do read quite a few books; books concerning the pursuit of trout, outdoor books and their ilk. When all is said and done, this is the best I have read in quite a few years now. Where oh where to start? There are so many levels to be investigated in this work that it is very difficult to choose just one, two, three or even more. Let's start with the first; the most obvious: This is a book about trout fishing. I am not talking about fishing for trout with worms and such, no, no, no... I am talking about how it should be done... with flies. Now I was first introduced to the art of fly fishing when I was eight years old. Since that time the number of books and articles I have read on the subject, I can truthfully say, number in the hundreds, if not the thousands. Hey, I have bunches of book learning. Can you imagine my surprise when I read this relatively short book that I actually learned new things! I was stunned, surprised and delighted! But make no mistake... this is NOT a technical paper; a how to do in manual. The author takes his subject and has an uncanny ability to translate what he has learned through study, apply that knowledge at the streamside, and make it all so interesting... more about that later. This is a book about a life time journey. We are allowed to enter the author's life, and receive the most insightful observations as to how the author grew as a man along with growing in his passion of tricking a very smart fish, the trout, into biting on something that really is not what the fish thinks it is. The author has not only learned of trout; he has learned about himself. Ah, but this is not one of those hokey self awareness or self help books, no, far from it. Not once does the author try to give you the ultimate secret of life or how to be happy in twelve easy steps. No smug preachy stuff here, no condescending lectures from the "old pro." The author is one of those rare individuals who has taken a big bite out of life, has found he enjoyed what he is eating, and has the ability to pass this enjoyment on to his readers... But that being said, I can assure you that the pages of this book are simply loaded with little bits of wisdom here and there and presented in away that blend with the overall story. This is a book of fish stories. Each chapter is pretty much a fish story, different stream or river, different fishing partners, different times and places, but never-the-less, fish stories. And I have to tell you right now that these are superior fish stories because this guy McMurry a natural story teller and more importantly, he can write and write well! But the author makes these stories so very, very much more than just fish stories. This writer is also one of the most skilled nature writers I have come across since Edwin Way Teal or Roger Tory Peterson. His description of the environment as he fishes and drives through it is delightful. His knowledge of the creatures he shares the streamside with is quite remarkable. He has the ability to make you feel as if you were standing with him along some of the most beautiful rivers and streams in our country. This is good stuff folks. Random thoughts: I love the way this author has handled his dialog. It is realistic. When men, and women for that matter, fish together, they do not always use "parlor language." When I read a work such as this and the characters sound as if they have Mrs. Grundy looking over their shoulders... well, it simply is not realistic... it does not happen that way! The author has not backed off on this fact of life... he is not gross or phony, does not gratuitously throw words in here and there for the shock value... no, the conversations go pretty much the way the do in every day life on a fishing stream. I have been there, done that and do that. Realism, I like it. I was struck by the great admiration and respect the author held for the incredible creatures he is attempting to catch. I so much admired his repeated emphasis on the catch and release concept of this sport... a doctrine I have been preaching for well over 50 years now. I have had three or six great passions in my life (Other than my wife) - Fly Fishing, Natural History, Bird watching, golf, chess and reading. This book help and added to my enjoyment of two of these things that make up my life... And two out of six ain't bad... no Sir. I do hope Bryan McMurry decides to write more... he has a rare talent and he needs to share! Don Blankenship

The Ozarks 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fly-Fishing as Food for the Soul By DrCarolWell, yes, it is about the fish to some extent. After all, if it weren't for the fish, no one would go fly-fishing! But "It's Not about the Fish" is also about the experience of learning to fly fish, the scenery he encountered on his fishing expeditions, and most of all, the thoughts that occurred to him while he was fishing. In this conversation-filled memoir, Bryan McMurry philosophizes, sometimes humorously, about everything from aquatic insect nymphs to barbed wire as he recounts his adventures. You don't need to know anything about fly-fishing to enjoy this lively, well-written book, but after reading it, you may just find yourself wanting to feel the adrenaline rush of watching a big trout escape your hook and swim away.

Having always been fascinated with fly-fishing while growing up on a hardscrabble ranch too small to survive, Bryan's journey begins on a quaint Montana creek at a time others his age are suffering mid life crises. That first fly-fishing lesson leads to a host of encounters, each contributing to the understanding that the meaning of life has nothing to do with a peaty single malt scotch crisply splashed over ice, but the journey does. The cast of characters, each contribute to Bryan's understanding that what you learn is never as important as what you will do with it. In the end, after Bryan learns life's single truth and the secret to all happiness, we return to the monster steelhead. However, life is not always what it seems and Bryan faces an unexpected ethical challenge. Confronting that challenge Bryan uncovers the final piece of life's puzzle, that there is a life going on around us that is all too frequently missed. Realizing that the peripheral life holds countless rewards, he discovers that there are even more gratifying prizes when you do the right thing.

"I have read and do read quite a few books; books concerning the pursuit of trout, outdoor books and their ilk. When all is said and done, this is the best I have read in quite a few years now. " --Don Blankenship"This writer is also one of the most skilled nature writers I have come across since Edwin Way Teal or Roger Tory Peterson." --Don Blankenship"Vivid, that's the word that comes to mind. It's like you're right there on that stream with Bryan." --John Foley"It grabs you quickly as a very special book! ...you will laugh-out-loud...guaranteed." --W. L. Lewis"Regardless of whether you are just starting out in fly fishing or have been at it for a lifetime, It's Not About The Fish is a thought provoking, fun read." --Curtis Fleming - Fly Rod Chronicles

From the Author Saying that fly-fishing saved my life is as much an overstatement as saying it changed my life is an understatement. The fact that you are reading this message about my book, It's Not about the Fish, is a testament to that change. Becoming an author wasn't even a blip on my radar screen until fly-fishing became a part of my life. Little did I know that what began on a quaint Montana creek, would launch me on a journey leading to life's single truth and the secret to all happiness. My friend, Lex Gamblin, to whom I am forever indebted, and you will read about, gave me a gift that provided a new perspective to a life that began on a hardscrabble ranch too small to survive.

From the Back Cover Some years ago at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center in Atlanta, Georgia there was a chimpanzee that could correctly categorize photos of humans and apes. She sorted the photos into two piles and when she came to the photo of herself--a chimpanzee--she sorted it into the pile of human photos. That may seem an interesting, even humorous action, but not unusual. We have no problem assessing and categorizing others, but when it comes to assessing ourselves we have a little more difficulty. Apparently the sorter in this case is something less than objective. We all have activities, groups, or beliefs, categories if you will, with which we identify. These categories can even become part of our self-perceived identity. I have never perceived myself as a writer, and only until recently have I thought of myself as a decent fly-fisher. It all started with a fly-fishing story that I wrote after a particularly memorable trip. Even then, I had no idea that that story would lead to a book. While I have now been a fly fisher for a number of years and have written a book about how it changed my life, I still struggle in categorizing myself as a writer or fly fisher, partly because I still have a great deal to learn about both, but mostly because self proclaimed categorization is a tenuous exercise. It's a possibility that I could be living in my own world, believing that my photo belongs in either the fly fisher or writer piles. I suppose readers of this book will decide if I am in fact a writer, and they might, in the course of reading this book, get a sense of whether or not my photo belongs in the fly fisher pile. Final judgment on the latter is best made on the river, so keep an eye out for me. Oh, don't worry, I'm easily recognized. I'll be the chimpanzee in the fly-fishing vest. See you on the river, Bryan McMurry