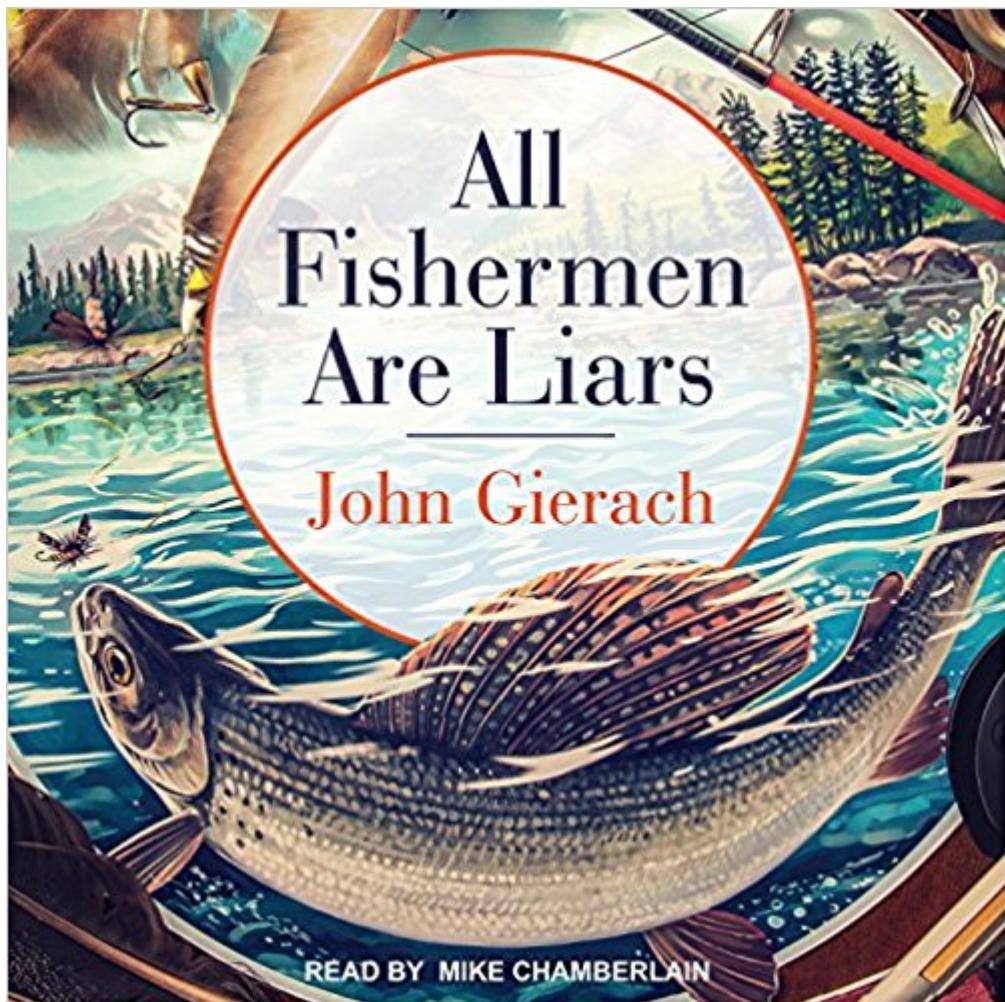


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# All Fishermen Are Liars



## Synopsis

For John Gierach, the master of fly-fishing (Sacramento Bee), fishing is always the answer—even when it's not clear what the question is. In *All Fishermen Are Liars*, Gierach travels around North America seeking out quintessential fishing experiences, whether it's at a busy stream or a secluded lake hidden amid snow-capped mountains. He talks about the art of fly-tying and the quest for the perfect steelhead fly (The Nuclear Option), about fishing in the Presidential Pools previously fished by the elder George Bush (I wondered briefly if I'd done something karmically disastrous and was now fated to spend the rest of my life breathing the exhaust of this elderly Republican), and the importance of traveling with like-minded companions when caught in a soaking rain (At this point someone is required to say, You know, there are people who wouldn't think this is fun.). And though Gierach loses some fish along the way, he never loses his passion and sense of humor. Wry, contemplative, and lively—that is to say, pure Gierach—*All Fishermen Are Liars* is a joy to listen to—and, as always, the next best thing to fishing itself.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

\*Starred Review\* In his seventeenth book, Gierach, who gave us the term “trout bum,” describes North American trout and salmon fishing in all seasons—from Atlantic salmon in Newfoundland, through Chinook salmon in Pacific estuaries, and on to trout fishing across the American West. An engaging autobiographical introduction opens the book, which includes 22 perceptive and witty essays, recalling numerous fishing trips and offering insights

on fly rods and fly patterns. Among the many highlights are "Tenkara," in which the author examines a new fly-fishing technique from Japan, and "Montana," which delivers an appealing take on a mainstay in angling literature, the almost mystical experience of catching many fish in a secret fishing hole. These lyrical essays explode with descriptions of beautiful places, big fish, and beautiful fish (brook trout from a lake in winter "so brilliant that they seemed to be lit from within"). But Gierach can write about more than trout and salmon. Among the fish, there are reflections on Zen, some musing on Sun Tzu, and spot-on cameos from Richard Russo and James Crumley. --John Rowen --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Perceptive and witty . . . These lyrical essays explode with descriptions of beautiful places, big fish, and beautiful fish." ---Booklist Starred Review

It's not lost on you, reading Gierach, that he attained a degree in Philosophy many moons ago. Like all the Gierach I've read, (which would be all his output), *Fisherman Are Liars* never disappoints. Gierach has an eye not only for the fishing, but for the place, the world, and the broad spectrum of fishermen. He'll describe, in some technical detail, fly fishing, but also knows and notes the species of tree, bird and critter around him. The author is, by his own admission, fairly reclusive these days; nonetheless, were you so fortunate as to run into him on a river or lake, a float plane or an airport, I have no doubt you'd recognize the gleam in his eye, and be treated to a bit of the joy, reflection, and passion he infuses his work with every. If you've not read Gierach, you've got a treat ahead. Start with *Trout Bum* and work your way forward; you can thank me later.

I started reading his books when I first moved to Colorado in 1992. I've read them all pretty much in order and own them all (except his anthology of other works). All I can say is this is classic Gierach, "the Mark Twain of fly fishing", as someone wrote. In his early books he wrote about his clapped out pickup truck and working class house, and doing odd jobs to help pay the mortgage. and support his fly fishing habit. in the first chapter of this book he broke me up with this: "For instance the accountant who now handles your taxes says that if some of his other self -employed clients saw what you legitimately write off-fly rods, travel, fishing lodges, guide tips, etc.-they'd s\*\*\* a brick." Well, he may have moved up in life, but his feet are sill planted firmly on a stream bed.

Gierach is unquestionably one of the modern fly fishing era's more popular writers. He earned that

title with a stream of books that divulged his candid opinion of many fishing related topics. This book does not exhibit his unvarnished look at issues but it seems a bit protective of his sources, venues; a step back from previous efforts. I like this author and this book but it seems to be the effort of a writer who is tired or has become protective of his privacy. Given Gierach's popularity I can understand his attitudinal change but his latest book is not the same. It is like reading his previous work through some sort of filter.

I have most of John's books and always enjoy escaping to the field in his stories. I land up reading them many times over the years, much the same as you might treat your favorite poems. If I had any bone-to-pick with him it would be that he has been known to repeat some of his stories in his different books. He has probably got two or three books with the same stories repeated from previous books. I think that if you buy a book of short stories from an author you deserve to get all new stories. I don't believe that this happened in "All Fishermen Are Liars", so thanks to John for that. As far as the stories go, they just start running together, in much the same way as would happen if you were sitting around a campfire listening to someone who traveled around the world and fished, tell one adventure after another until you get sleepy then you just excuse yourself and hit the sac. That is pretty much what they are the best for, so I read them when I go to bed. It does leave you feeling nice when you doze off.

This is the second book I have read by this author. I believe he is someone who could write a blog about his every day and it would be good reading. Unfortunately others who blog or tweet regularly don't have his skills. The book would be interesting to anyone with an interest in fly fishing, being outdoors, or being around interesting people.

I have never fished, I don't even think about ever fishing but I love Mr. Gierach's books. One review said that, 'you forget your reading' and that sums it up. He is insightful, funny and if you're a reader you realize when you have finished one of his books you hope that time will pass quickly so that another one will be out soon.

I've always found John's books interesting and informative, and this one is no exception. Filled with descriptions of his many fly fishing adventures, he has the knack to weave within little bits of technique and thoughtfulness that help me more vicariously analyze my own approach to the water and the trout lurking therein.

I haven't read one of his books for awhile and forgot how nice it is to escape into his world for a while. Might have to reread a few of the older books again. Nice escapism

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