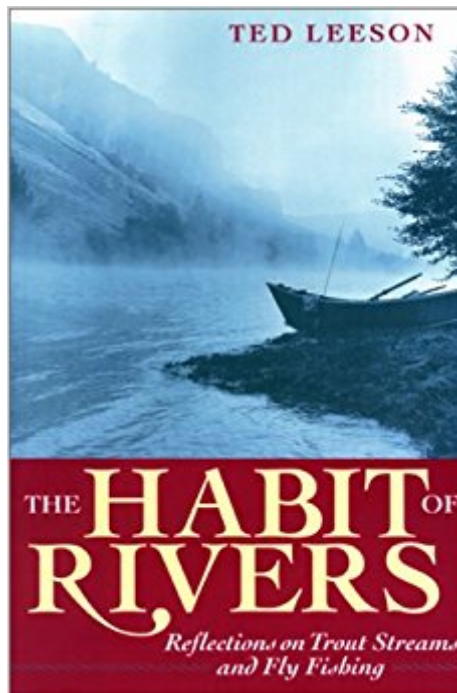




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# The Habit Of Rivers: Reflections On Trout Streams And Fly Fishing



## Synopsis

The story of a passion for rivers, trout, and fly fishing, and their sustaining power.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Of all sports, fishing has the richest literature and, in number of titles, seemingly the most of any hobby save chess. This volume outshines all recent entries. As an English professor at Oregon State University, Leeson is amply qualified to write a literate angling book, but his lambent, fluid prose, graced with wit and warmth, far transcends such concepts as qualification. "The craft of angling is the catching of fish. But the art of angling is a responsiveness . . . letting one thing lead to another until . . . you realize some small completeness." These essays are small, elegant completions opening windows to the rivers of the Pacific Northwest (mostly eastern Oregon's Columbia River Basin). In a flyfisher's dialect, Leeson tells an angler's story with the full-throated voice of a naturalist. Those who wonder what it is they're really after out there in the stream will find the answer here. Leeson's work belongs on the shelf next to that of Annie Dillard, John McPhee, Barry Lopez and others of their stripe (and speckle). Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

"The fishing here is invariably superb; always, it's the catching that's up for grabs." Such is the refreshing, sometimes humorous, always gracefully expressed philosophy of Leeson. He believes that fly fishing can take one outside oneself and help one develop new ways of seeing. Leeson fishes as much as 100 days a year; writes for *Field & Stream*, *Fly Rod & Reel*, and other

magazines; teaches English; ties flies; and knows the literature of the field. Yet this is not a how-to, or what-with, but rather a passionate celebration of the attractions of rivers, trout, and fishing. As in Howell Raines's *Fly Fishing Through the Midlife Crisis* ( LJ 9/15/93), the arts of angling, writing, and living are blended. Public and academic libraries should acquire this fine book.- Roland Person, Southern Illinois Univ. Lib., CarbondaleCopyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Just discovered Leeson and he's a gem. Like the best fishing books (IMHO), this book isn't a how-to or a Fantastic Tales of fish counts; it's an adventure for the spirit and the mind. Leeson draws upon humor, humility, literature, science, and his own skinned knees to give us insight into ourselves and the world around us. Fishing at its best. *Inventing Montana* is superb, as well. I hope there are more of his books coming soon! (Gierach's intro--another top-tier writer--is spot on.)

this is a replacement copy, so I guess that is review enough.

Mr. Leeson's tales of experiences in the northwest seems to explore many other facets of fly fishing other than the fishing experiences and catching of fish. The book explores other perceptions of the author while he goes about his activity of fishing. For a person who would like to read about the fishing adventures of a fisherman while also noting those other aspects which one thinks about while fishing, this book will tend to do that - the seasons, the environment, philosophical thoughts etc. Not so much a story but recollections of experiences and thoughts while going fishing.

This is ZMM for fly fishing with more emphasis on the fish and their prey, and without asking too many open ended questions. A real treat and inspiration in unexpected ways.

The author's connection of fishing to spirituality is natural and unforced. He puts into words many of the things I feel when fishing.

I'd recommend this to friends who fish, or who remember fishing. It's full of wisdom and flashes of good writing

Ted Leeson's philosophy is wonderful

a good escape from MN winter....arrived in good shape. The author lives for fishing, favors dry flies,

but also looks beneath the surface.

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