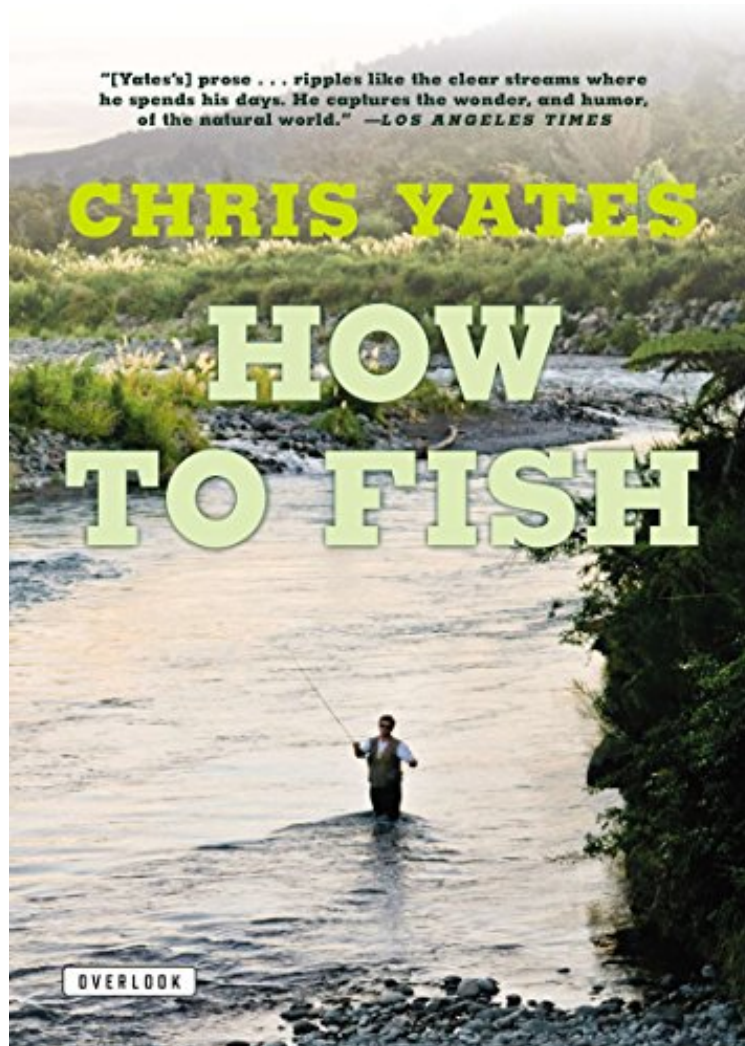


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## How To Fish

*Chris Yates*

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**Chris Yates : How To Fish** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How To Fish:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is a beautifully written book by a man who not only loves ...By Marianna BaumThis is a beautifully written book by a man who not only loves fishing but all that encompasses the sport as well: the landscape, the English chalk streams, the weather as it changes from season to season, making tea streamside. The 'how to' of the title really refers, not to some technical explication, but rather a philosophical 'how to' as in 'why.' I thought of this book today when out on my favorite little lake in upstate NY - a lake I visit often in summer, think I know where the fish will be, but am always delightfully surprised by where they aren't and then, where they are. I let them all go with a 'good luck.' (And yeah, I'm a sap.)2 of 2 people found the following review

helpful. A DELIGHTFUL READ By TroutChaser I have a fondness for British nature writers; they have a way of bringing things to life like no others. They also have a wonderful turn of the word and skillful use of language. "How To Fish" by Chris Yates is no exception. He takes a notebook with him when he fishes and writes down his thoughts and impressions bankside, while things are still fresh. Even though he talks about fishing in England, and uses some angling terms and fish names that might be unfamiliar to the American angler, with a little research one can make sense of it easily enough. Yates captures the special magic of fishing--it's look, smells, and feelings--brilliantly. And he also says something about catch and release fishing that I'd always felt but could never put into words: "...the most important part of this new experience was the actual physical contact with a wild creature: a genuine connection with nature. It was real, but also magic, because I had to somehow conjure it up from the strange depths of my village pond. It was, therefore, a curious but beautiful alchemy: first the hoped-for dream, then the dream transformed into a small flickering fish that rooted me to the Earth. I couldn't transcend that moment by eating what I'd caught and it seemed only fair, having stolen its magic, that I should allow my fish its freedom again." And that, I think, sums it up beautifully.<sup>3</sup> of 3 people found the following review helpful. Misnomer By Andrew Schonbek Notwithstanding its prosaic title, whatever this book is, it's not a book about "how to" fish. At least not in the technical sense. What this is, is a book about the spiritual aspects of fishing. Here are a couple of examples of the musing you'll be treated to: Although fishes are generally predictable in their habits, as anglers are in theirs, there is no telling how a fishing day is going to unfold. The fact that angling is a chancy business is one of its greatest appeals - especially in today's regulated world. Even without the workings of the chaos principle, the angler has to work with the changeable weather, the moodiness of the fish, the state of the water, the proximity of other anglers, the arrogance of swans, the blindness of dogs and their owners, the obstinacy of cattle. Unlike other watery activities, like boating or swimming, a whole day can pass without anything seeming to happen. Unlike non-watery activities like tennis, cricket or football, fishing does not conform to straight lines or strict rules: its only essential rules are moral ones. Anyway, it's not a game or a sport but a genetic imperative that makes us whole again each time we give it expression. When I look upstream and see everything flowing towards me it's like looking into the future; when I face downstream and see everything flowing away, it's like looking into the past. What makes fishing so compelling, however, is the way that it keeps my attention fixed on the present. Fishing in moonlight shouldn't, anyway, have to be reduced to an exercise in scientific theory; it should be more an appreciation of mysterious scene shifting; and if a fish gleams into view, let it be regarded only as a needle to stitch the magic together. Deep and weighty stuff indeed...

Chris Yates discovered the joys of fishing early in life and was quickly hooked by its pleasure. Many years later, he is still content to sit, day after day, observing the quirks of different fish and losing track of time. For him, fishing is much more than just a question of technique; sometimes it's about listening to nothing but your instincts, and at other times it's about enjoying yourself in the moment. And it's always about not knowing how the day is going to unfold. There's no better guide for the uninitiated--and no better companion for those already familiar with the satisfactions of fishing--than Chris Yates. From casting and reeling to whiling away the hours, *How to fish* is a gem of a book that gets to the heart of the passion for angling: there's more to fishing than catching fish.

From Publishers Weekly Though new to American readers, Yates is well known in the U.K. as a journalist and TV presenter, and also for catching what was, in 1980, the biggest fish in the history of English fishing. In his new book, Yates has set out to capture the thoughts and stories that came to him as he sat on the riverbank and waited for a bite. Among fishermen in the U.S., philosophy and poetry are usually the domain of trout fly fishers, but Yates applies these two abstractions to bait fishing for such unrefined-sounding fish as chub, barbell, gudgeon and perch. In his accessible and occasionally lyrical prose, Yates sums up a year on a river in chapter-long musings on a host of fishing and non-fishing topics, such the topography of a river, the weather, his youth, the bird-like beauty of a perch and the essentially British notion of the restorative powers of tea. The book is also filled with practical and tactical advice about how best to land a whale of a perch. Because of Yates's intelligent observations and his pure dedication to his sport (it is his belief that man was born to fish), this book will be of interest to anglers on both sides of the Atlantic. (May) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "A beautiful meditation on existence that would make Thoreau or . . . Izaak Walton proud . . . He captures the wonder, and humor, of the natural world." --"Los Angeles Times" About the Author Chris Yates is a photographer, an author, the founder of *Waterlog* magazine, and first and foremost a fisherman. For years he was the angling correspondent for the *financial Times*. He was first inspired to write about fishing by the discovery of a monster carp in his village pond when he was five.