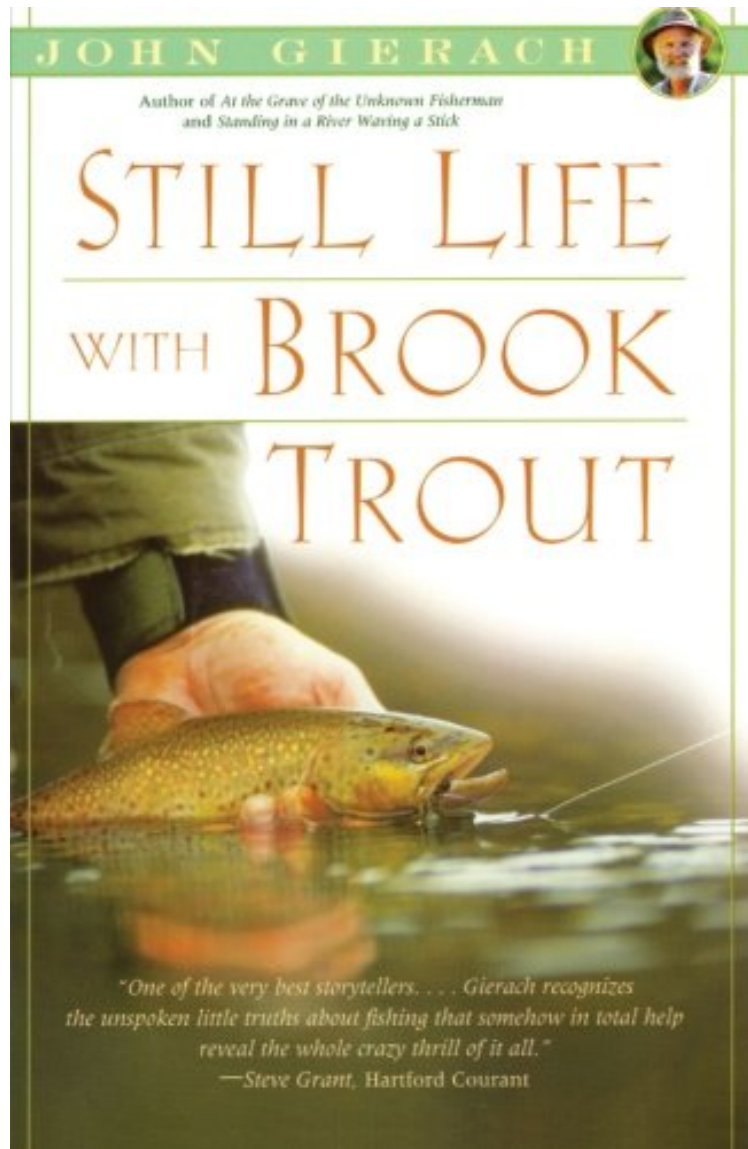


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## Still Life with Brook Trout (John Gierach's Fly-fishing Library)

John Gierach

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**John Gierach : Still Life with Brook Trout (John Gierach's Fly-fishing Library)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Still Life with Brook Trout (John Gierach's Fly-fishing Library):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Least of the Best but Still GreatBy DWCI've given a number of Geirach's books as gifts. They are a real joy and a bright spot in my day. I always come away feeling a little better about the world and a little more hopeful about what the day has in store. Of all of his books, this is my least favorite -

though still worthy of 5 stars. It seems to be a little more focused on political issues surrounding water conservation related to drought at the time. Still, that is a minor distraction. I'll still be reading and rereading this one, like all his others. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Continued Reflections of a Trout Bum By kenny In reading this book by Gierach and comparing it to all of the other books by this author, I find that I continue to enjoy his books about his trout fishing experiences and the many other fishermen with whom he writes about. I guess his descriptions of not only the fish, places and circumstances of which he writes are enjoyable and can be comparatively reflected in my own person fishing experiences, but also those parts of his writing in which he reflects on and describes his encounters with others who are not fishermen and his thoughts of these encounters. They tend to remind me how others look at old fishermen, especially those that keep to themselves pretty much as well as fish alone. Continue to enjoy his books. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A little fishing technique, a little life technique. By Aquadog Reading this book about fishing is almost as good as being on the river...

Brilliant, witty, perceptive essays about fly-fishing, the natural world, and life in general by the acknowledged master of fishing writers. In *Still Life with Brook Trout*, John Gierach demonstrates once again that fishing, when done right, is as much a philosophical pursuit as a sport. Gierach travels to Wyoming and Maine and points in between, searching out new fly-fishing adventures and savoring familiar waters with old friends. Along the way he meditates on the importance of good guides ("Really, the only thing a psychiatrist can do that a good guide can't is write prescriptions"), the challenge of salmon fishing ("Salmon prowl. If they're not here now, they could be here in half an hour. Or tomorrow. Or next month"), and the zen of fishing alone ("I also enjoy where my mind goes when I'm fishing alone, which is usually nowhere in particular and by a predictable route"). On a more serious note, he ponders the damaging effects of disasters both natural and man-made: drought, wildfires, and the politics of dam-building, among others. Reflecting on a trip to a small creek near his home, Gierach writes, "In my brightest moments, I think slowing down...has opened huge new vistas on my old home water. It's like a friendship that not only lasts, but gets better against the odds." Similarly, *Still Life with Brook Trout* proves that Gierach, like fly-fishing itself, becomes deeper and richer with time.

.com Over the course of 14 books, John Gierach has become the fishing buddy to countless anglers he's never met. Waterlogged and dog-eared and thrown in the back of pickup trucks, Gierach's classics *Trout Bum* and *The View from Rat Lake* gave voice to the inner wanderings and wonderings of fly fishers the world over. In *Still Life with Brook Trout* Gierach continues his enviable jaunts--he seems constantly to be traipsing off to some undiscovered creek, private water, or middle-of-nowhere secret spot--but this time, there's a difference. More than ever, Gierach is forced to deal with an aging body that can't quite scramble over logjams, bushwhack through the brush, or wade quite as deeply as before. Running parallel with these observations, Gierach ponders the effects of a three-year drought in the mountain West. But whether it is his aching knees or dropping levels in reservoirs, rivers, and streams, Gierach always retains hope without dismissing the often grim odds, ridiculous situations, and glum prospects so familiar to anglers. And while Gierach nurses his hope like an ember, he never abandons his appreciation for the sport's absurdity, humor, and humbling moments. He has become the master of the literary shrug, as if to say, "What can you do? Might as well go fishing." Like the best of Gierach's work, *Still Life with Brook Trout* mirrors the exquisitely languid pace of the sport. He meanders, explores side roads and bends in the river, and never fails to take note of "a deer crossing a meadow or a circling hawk ... even if it means missing a strike when it finally comes." Gierach is on his game here, and longtime fans will rise to this offering hook, line, and sinker. --Steve Duda From *Publishers Weekly* "In some ways," Gierach writes in this breezy, compact volume, "fishing with a good, familiar partner has many of the best attributes of fishing by yourself." For those unschooled in the particular joys and sorrows of fly fishing, Gierach (*At the Grave of the Unknown Fisherman*) is that good, familiar partner as he smoothly details the finer points of tying flies; the agony of replacing an old, worn-out fishing vest; and the ethereal sounds wind can make. This work's power lies in Gierach's assumption that readers are interested. He doesn't stop and explain; his stories flow unapologetically from the singular viewpoint of the committed angler. Fishing in rainy conditions may "make fishermen seem crazy to the great mass of unimaginative people, but then few fishermen care what they think," he writes. Beyond describing the specifics of landing this or that elusive fish, Gierach's main concern is the drought that has plagued the American West since the end of the last century. He spikes his stories with accounts of ravaged streams, depleted fish stocks and forests devastated by huge fires fueled by bone-dry timber. His well-mapped territory is one of challenge and setback, good friends and comrades in arms, fact and poetry. It's a world that goes beyond the bubbling trout stream and into the stuff of everyday life. Illus. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From *Booklist* In his fourteenth book, Gierach takes readers on a tour of some of his favorite fishing spots around the country, from the Colorado mountain streams where he learned to fly fish through rivers and streams in Wyoming, Oregon, Maine, and Oklahoma. Along with his typically lyrical descriptions of the pleasures of fishing, Gierach delivers solid how-to advice that even average anglers will be able to follow. Best of all, though, are his stories: witty, self--deprecating accounts of car trouble, broken tackle, and losing catchable fish. There is a serious side

here, too, as Gierach drives home a strong environmental message, in which he inveighs against a questionable water project that nearly floods his home valley and a national economy "based on replacing elk and peregrine falcons with suburbs." As always, Gierach deserves prominent placement among fishing's A-list literary writers: Nick Lyons, William Tapply, and Thomas McGuane. John RowenCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved