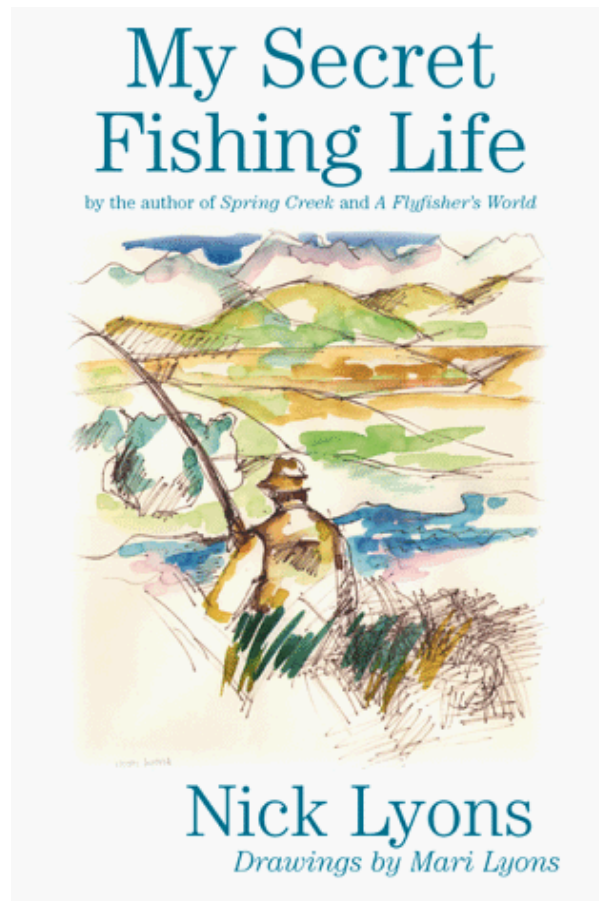


# MY SECRET FISHING LIFE BY NICK LYONS



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# My Secret Fishing Life

by the author of *Spring Creek* and *A Flyfisher's World*



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### Amazon.com Review

"There are many of us," writes Nick Lyons, six decades on the pond behind him, "for whom a day on the trout river is so pleasant an event, such an amiable and engaging pastime, that it feels, both going and coming back, as comfortable as an old shoe. We go for the sheer joy of it, not to put notches on our rods." Anglers keep returning to Lyons's finely honed prose for precisely the same reason. The collection of essays that comprises **My Secret Fishing Life** is a personal journey into the various "rivers" he's waded as a husband, father, teacher, writer, collector, publisher--and, of course, as a fisherman, the single noun that manages to tie all these lines together. The shorter pieces of the first half, many of which were originally published in *Fly Fisherman* magazine, explore subsets of the fishing life, drifting casually between philosophical rumination and memoir: the rituals of preparing for a new season, getting older, a lunchbreak spent fishing for stripers in the waters off Wall Street. In such sketches he presents his languid yet alluring phrases as delicately as if they were flies to a rising trout. Here he is on the inherent purity of the dry fly: "The only possible practical argument for using the dry fly more frequently is Lee Wulff's--that the dry fly fished on a floating line grants for the trout the sanctuary of its part of the river, allowing the connection to take place only at that place where air and water meet, and only at certain times." Two longer pieces comprising the book's second half are less successful--maybe too personal here and there (especially a windy defense of his wife's painting career), but overall it's honest, thoughtful work. Like fly-fishing as a sporting enterprise, the writing casts more toward the journey than the destination, allowing itself to hook into a share of verities along the way. --Jeff Silverman

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Within the pond of those who write about fly-fishing, Lyons is one of the bigger fish. He has authored 16 titles (*In Praise of Wild Trout*, etc.) on the evidently inexhaustible subject and has published others' books on the art and mystique of fly-fishing. This is his most introspective book yet: "I have tried to find more of what my professional life has amounted to than ever before and more of my personal life." That he had a personal life at all is amazing given that, for 13 years, he was a full-time editor at Crown, taught five courses at Hunter College (where colleagues looked askance at his fishing articles and books, unable to see what such low-brow pursuits had to do with his professorship), ghostwrote four books and continued with his own writing and had four children. He later started a book-packaging firm, Lyons & Burford, which became an independent house; now he heads Lyons Press. Even so, Lyons found time to go fishing, and there are plenty of fish tales here, spiced with references to Hesse, Twain, Melville, Max Planck, Byron and others. Lyons

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# MY SECRET FISHING LIFE BY NICK LYONS PDF

Beyond his life as an English professor, book publisher, and writer, Nick Lyons has always had a "secret fishing life," a deep and abiding passion for fishing, especially with a fly. *My Secret Fishing Life* is Lyons's effort to bring together the diverse threads of his life - the joys of a fly fisher's spring, the pleasure of fishing an old farm pond, reflections on first and last days of the season, a unique record of his life as an editor and publisher of books about angling, the process of aging, threats to fishing waters, various ways to fish, and much else, always tempered by Lyons's hallmark self-deprecating humor.

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- Published on: 1999-04
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.75" h x 6.00" w x 1.00" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 187 pages

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Will Hepfer, SUNY at Buffalo Libs.

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Five Stars

By Stanley Michelson

A must read book for fly fishermen, even those who no longer practice the art.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Nick, Mari, Tony & Sparse: highly personal matters

By Former Rater

Mr. Lyons, whose books (both edited and written) fill a significant portion of my fly fishing library, has written a very personal book.

The title is accurate at many levels. I doubt that many of us

would share so much about our personal lives - or that we would be able to do so with such candor and joy.

Mr. Lyons' description of the travels (and travails) of a special copy of Sparse Grey Hackle's *Fishless Days*, *Angling Nights* is worth the price of the book.

Fishing in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty between morning appointments is an incredible story (especially to this former New Yorker ... the Hudson off of NYC was dead in the 60's & 70's).

I never seem to find any time to fish. With this little book, I have a guide of how to find (or take) a little time here and there for fly fishing. Thank you, Mr. Lyons, for your guide to blending avocations with vocations.

Mr. Lyons sold his publishing company recently. May he and his family enjoy many years of post-publishing / editing repose and adventure. We may be lucky enough to have a second volume: perhaps a guide for the next twenty years?

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

My Secret Fishing Life

By kenny

An interesting and personal view from the author of his perceptions, feelings and thoughts about his fishing life - from youth to elder fisherman. His observations are thought provoking and in many instances mirror

many thoughts I have had on fishing and how change has occurred over our life of fishing many waters, meeting different folks and how we have changed. Very good book.

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