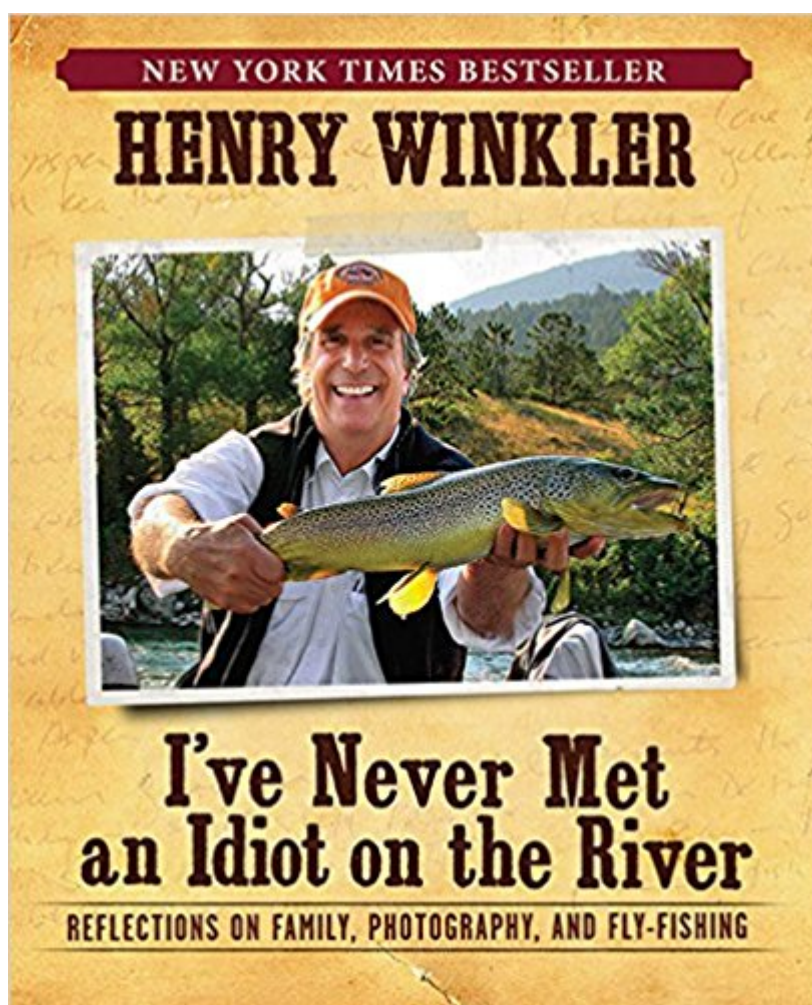


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# I've Never Met An Idiot On The River: Reflections On Family, Photography, And Fly-Fishing



## Synopsis

Now in paperback, this New York Times best-selling collection of humorous anecdotes and heartfelt observations from Henry Winkler shares the joy and wisdom he's accumulated while honing his skills as a fly-fisherman. An accomplished sportsman who meticulously records the measurements of every fish he hooks, Winkler has learned that his yearly trips to the river are not just about catching trout. More importantly, they're about adopting the proper perspective on life. Or, as Winkler puts it, when he's fly-fishing, the river acts like a "washing machine for my brain," recharging him and reminding him that anything is possible. Winkler makes a habit of sharing his angling adventures with his wife, Stacey, and their three children, Jed, Zoe, and Max. The Winklers' annual trip, where they can escape the busy-ness of everyday life, has brought them together as a family. On the river, Henry has grown to appreciate the support his wife and children give him, learned to listen, and developed the confidence to publish his outdoor photography in his first non-fiction book. An expression of the inherent optimism that stems from the simplicity of the outdoors, *I've Never Met an Idiot on the River* is an invitation to share in the realizations and achievements Winkler has found while fishing. Hopefully it will help you catch a few of your own.

## Book Information

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: Insight Editions (April 23, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1608870960

ISBN-13: 978-1608870967

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.5 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 91 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #550,859 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #64 in [Books > Arts &](#)

[Photography > Photography & Video > Individual Photographers > Essays](#) #172 in [Books >](#)

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## Customer Reviews

PRAISE FOR *I've Never Met an Idiot on the River*: The most entertaining and introspective fly-fishing memoir I have ever read. - David Ondaatje, filmmaker and owner, R.L. Winston

Rod Company; Henry Winkler has become a true fly-fisherman and anyone who reads his eloquent words will gain an appreciation of why this sport is so pure and perfect. His stories and thoughts remind me why I love fly-fishing so much. - John Barrett, host, Fly Fishing the World; Henry Winkler and I share a love of the outdoors and fishing. This is a great book that captures the impact the sport can have on our lives. All outdoorsmen should read it and experience Winkler's passion for the fishing experience. - T. Boone Pickens, legendary energy executive; Winkler's message is positive and upbeat, making the book as much a motivational title as a fishing memoir. The important lesson he learned from his achievements is that with patience, persistence, and practice you can accomplish anything. Well done, Henry. This breezy, charming volume is for fans of celebrity memoirs and self-help. - Mike Rogers, Library Journal; Winkler's warmhearted spirit anchors the simple collection of Montana and Idaho river photos, reminiscences, and asides, resulting in a fantastic Father's Day gift for any patriarch who owns a pair of knee-high rubber boots. - Richard Horgan, MediaBistro; There is something for everybody in this book . . . The book is a touching story about overcoming personal problems to reach one's goals. - Kevin Brown, The San Francisco Book Review --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Henry Winkler is an actor, producer, and director, as well as a New York Times best-selling author of I've Never Met an Idiot on the River and the Hank Zipzer series. Also the coauthor of 17 children's books, he lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Stacey, two dogs, and five fly-fishing rods.

I am one of those people who scoffed at "Happy Days" and Henry Winkler's character, Fonzie. I mean, I was so tragically hip that the whole show was intellectually beneath me and I avoided it and references to it like the plague. Later, as my daughters watched re-runs of it on cable, I forced myself to watch it with them and found that Winkler's Fonzie was more than just a guy in a cool jacket. It was still schmaltzy as all get out but it grew on me, especially since my girls thought it was hilarious. Okay, I've been wrong before. I'm still right about Tom Cruise, though. Winkler began to emerge from the all-encompassing shadow of that character, I began to get glimpses of what a fine actor and person Winkler really was and is. Thoughtful, kind and generous doesn't always impress; certainly mainstream media was not paying attention but I was. I've read his childrens books to my own kids. This guy is deep. Now comes "I've Never Met an Idiot on the River..." and on a lark I purchased it. When it arrived, a slim book with some wonderful personal photos, I set it aside,

putting it in the stack of "books I must read before the end of the world". A couple of weeks later the world seemed on the verge and I figured I'd better start this book soon. I picked it up and thumbed through it, glancing at the photos and reading the captions and began to warm up to it. Winkler's expression on the cover photo probably had something to do with it, especially since we share a love for fishing. Winkler reeled me in (sorry) with his honesty, allowing me a peek into his life, his family and his inner demons. His writing style is conversational, which I prefer at times, and straight-forward. Winkler brought me along on his vacations. I sit in the back seat with the kids, the dog and with fishing rods poking me in the back of the head. Still it's a wonderful vacation and I find myself fighting with him over unclaimed waters, casting over his line and stealing his fish...whoa, I'm off on a tangent here. This book is not "War and Peace" nor it is deeply incisive study of the human condition. It is not "The Fonz does Fishing" (although that would have been a funnier title, I guess) so don't think for one moment Richie and Ralph will pop up out of the riverside brush. It is, however, an all too short but very entertaining read and I think you will be pleasantly surprised at Mr. Winkler's insights. I enjoyed it and I think most folks would enjoy it.

My kids grew up with the Fonz and I enjoy Henry's work. This fishing memoir is his tribute to the benefits trout fishing with a fly rod brings to one's life, those benefits that don't smell like fish. Beautiful photos and heartfelt remembrances. Keep fishing Henry!

This is a happy and a generous book. In it the former Happy Days star talks about his life, its challenges, and his joy in living it and overcoming the challenges. For Winkler, fishing is a source of joy, but also instruction in how life ought best to be lived, and a metaphor as to the meaning of what really is important. What does it teach? Confidence, intuition, patience, perseverance, focus - all qualities that were needed for the author to rise above the negative scripting of perfectionistic, almost abusive parents (their nickname for him was Dumb Dog). It's an exploration of reaching one's potential. Winkler comes across as a man who knows himself, is grounded in this knowledge, and is living life to the fullest. I particularly enjoyed the photography (nature photography is another of Winkler's passions) and the way in which they complement the text. Reading this is an uplifting experience.

This book is simply delightful. You don't have to be a fly fisherman or a photographer to enjoy it and learn from it. Anyone who has ever had their souls crushed will find paths to renewal in this book. Finding lessons all around him, Mr. Winkler shares his revelations with us in the most charming

way. Beautifully written and, at times, laugh out loud funny. This book is for fly fishermen, photographers, and anyone who has ever struggled in life.

I have long admired Henry Winkler as an actor, and I am even a fan of his children's books— the Hank Zipzer Collection. When I saw that he had this book, I purchased it immediately. I have never been fly fishing, but still I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Although the book deals mostly with his fishing trips, it is more about life and appreciating it than it is a "how to" guide. He also uses his own photographs of the beauty around him to illustrate the book. All of the photographs are great, but some of them are just absolutely breath-taking. I did not know that Henry Winkler was such a wonderful photographer, but add that to his other list of amazing talents. Overall, the book was fun and easy to read, but it was definitely a great read. The last chapter was especially inspirational to me, personally. Henry Winkler is an amazing person, and this book shows that. I'm glad I bought this book.

I enjoyed this book quite a bit. Interesting look into Henry's life and his love of fly fishing. Book was about the right length too.

When Mr. Winkler is not trying to sell us a reverse mortgage he goes fishing. I trust his comments about fishing far more than his financial advice. Delightful book.

Winkler enthusiastically discusses his passions, especially fly fishing. It is an effortless read and the photography is atypical for a fishing book. We all value our time on the water, reading between the lines, I did get the sense that Winkler is your typical well heeled tightly strung Angler that you would meet at a high end fly fishing lodge. I'd want to steer clear of him at the put in or on the water, which detracted from my enjoyment of his book.

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