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A bundle of books

reviewed by Andrew Levy

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The next work, ***Huckleberry Days: A Trouting, Shooting & Reading Life*** by Garrett Evans, published by Echoing Green Press in 2010 and with a foreword by Ed Herbst, is a strange one. You see, on first skimming, I took a dislike to both the book and the author's style, but as I read more, my attitude changed. The problem, I suspect, was not anything to do with the author, but was in fact mine and there is much merit in this book. It is not one of the how-to-catch-them varieties, which, as we have seen, are the bestsellers. Rather, it belongs to the category of whimsical writers who write about why they fish and what it means to them. In a manner of speaking, this is the stuff that I try to write, so it is quite close to home, and the title too reflects three of my particular interests. In *Huckleberry Days* the author, an academic and scholar, muses on his experiences in England, America, South Africa and New Zealand, where he now lives. I suspect we may have much in common, and I can only ascribe my initial feelings about the book to a possible sense of territorial infringement, which dispersed once I began to get to grips with the author.

I learnt a great deal from this book, not least about prejudice, and the truth of the old adage: you can't judge a book by its cover. Thank you, Garrett Evans. I am indebted to you, and perhaps, who knows, we can one day share a bottle of good red and exchange thoughts on a trouting, fishing and reading life. I think you have much to enrich a conversation, and this is a book which lends itself to a slow and thoughtful reading, and a real engagement with the text. Initially, I got this one wrong.