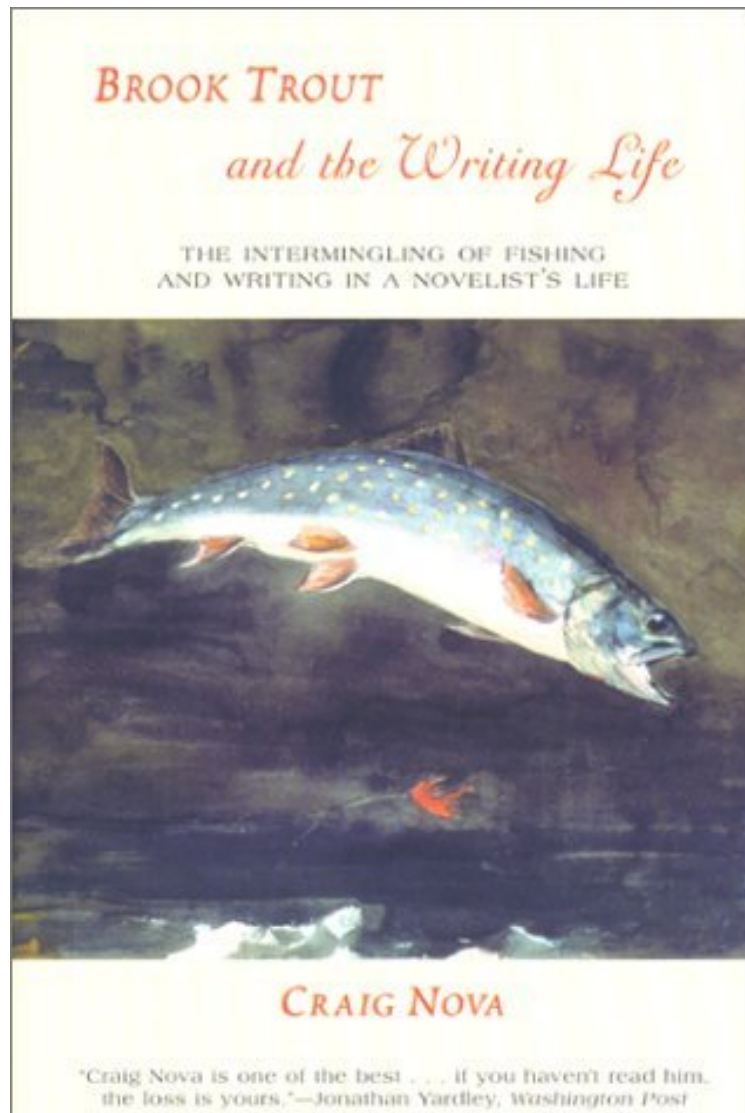


## Brook Trout and the Writing Life

Craig Nova

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**Craig Nova : Brook Trout and the Writing Life** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Brook Trout and the Writing Life:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. LOved this book and the settings withinBy U.B. WareLOved this book and the settings within...Brook trout...We should all fish for some. Fly fish to get away from the daily stresses.The author, Craig Nova, did justice and am looking forward, based on his style, of picking up one of Nova's other novels.Very impressed!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Brook trout and life, not just the writing life!!!!By Dr. JonesThis is a small book, but one that packs more wonder than could be imagined. It is a great

book not because it offers many different stories, but the ones he does offer are very vivid and memorable. They are also very thoughtful, which is a nice change from the hedonistic stories offered by a majority of those serving up fly-fishing tales. You will be caught up by these stories and will not want to release yourself from them after having read them. A great read.<sup>2</sup> of 2 people found the following review helpful. Brevity is the soul of wit. By S. Cain While this is a story on the role fly-fishing plays in the life of a man, you don't need to be a trout fisherman to enjoy it. The language is simplistic and I was amazed by the images he was able to create with such a style. Do not confuse this with "simple" writing because it is definitely not. It has layers of subtlety. Because it is so brief, I can see myself reading it again and again.

A brief and brilliant autobiography in which the worlds of the fisherman and the novelist commingle.

.com It's no surprise, really, that a novelist of Craig Nova's range should find himself as drawn to trout as he is to words. Both are uncertain and private pursuits with lots of time for contemplation, punctuated by plenty of setbacks and the occasional victory. Remarkably, each has a way of sustaining the other. Nova's memoir is, sadly, short, but the experiences he relates are anything but thin; anglers know there is just as much splendor in a game little fish as there is in one that's trophy-size. On streams from Maine to the Catskills, he skillfully and revealingly connects his fly lines to his life lines: his courtship, his marriage, his daughters, his writing. In one remarkable set piece, he recalls in splendid detail a bizarre episode, complete with the absurd intrigue of overt threats and secret mail drops, in which he becomes the target of an interstate extortion plot; Nova finds solace through the anxiety as he befriends--and fishes with--the FBI agent assigned to his case. Why, in the end, does angling hook him so? One memorably lovely passage explains the essence of the union: "During important events in my life, I have gone fishing for brook trout. What I got out of this was not just the absence of what was confining or upsetting, but the presence of another quality altogether: These fish are forever associated in my mind with the depths of thankfulness for good fortune, just as they always reminded me of beauty and a sense of what may be possible after all." It is in that hopeful landscape of the possible that anglers--and writers--go to thrive. --Jeff Silverman From Library Journal Though Nova is the author of nine hard-edged novels, including *The Universal Donor* and *The Book of Dreams*, in this slim, likeable memoir he reveals himself to be a caring and sensitive spouse, parent, and outdoorsman. Fishing Mostly for brook trout with a fly rod A has been a constant throughout his adult life, and he credits it with enhancing whatever writing skills or virtues he might possess. He argues that flyfishing's reflective nature lends intrinsic hopefulness and clear thinking to almost any proximate activity. The chapters cover meaningful events and relationships such as the impact angling had on his perseverance as a young, struggling writer and how fly tying helped him to evade his 12-year-old daughter's questions about what it's like to be in love. There's also a harrowing tale about an extortionist that ends anticlimactically. Recommended for public libraries. A Will Hepfer, SUNY at Buffalo Libs. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist This stylish memoir is like the brook trout in headwater streams across North America: diminutive, yet brightly colored, lively, and more rewarding to catch than fish many times larger. Nova, an accomplished novelist, discusses how trout fishing has sustained and enriched both his writing and his life. Expertly weaving together his two themes--the fish he has caught and the life he has lived--Nova recalls his literary apprenticeship in Manhattan as well as his marriage and years in the Catskills and in rural Vermont; he reflects on the struggle of learning to write and the joys of parenthood; and he even tells a compelling true-crime story. Remarkably, he connects this rich autobiographical material to his fishing experiences in a most genuine, convincing, and never contrived manner. This book puts Nova in the same league as such revered fishing memoirists as Thomas McGuane and Bill Barich (whose new books are also reviewed in this Spotlight section). John Rowen