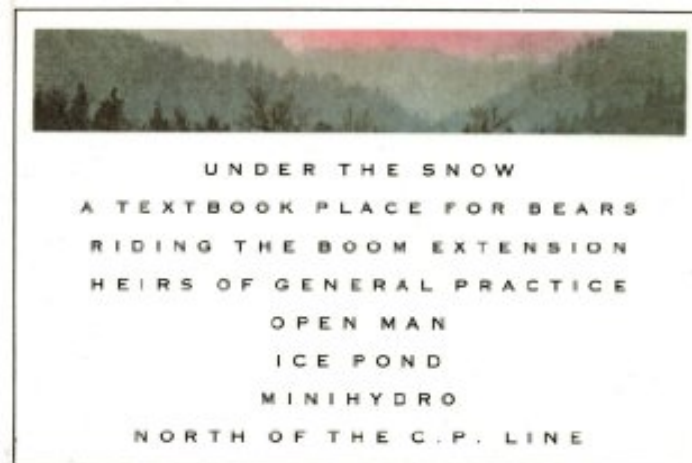


Table of Contents

John McPhee

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JOHN McPHEE

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John McPhee : Table of Contents before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Table of Contents:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. McPhee writes. Enough said. By Fire Boy I have read several of these stories repeatedly over the years. There is something fascinating about a chef that grows illegal plants in the back, that creates the three top meals that the author has ever eaten, that wants to remain anonymous, and has roots in european, luxury cuisine that keeps me coming back to study his character and methodologies for creating a successfully artistic eatery. Would that I were there. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful! By Joe ZOkay, it's going

to be hard to come up with 20 words (My title says it all.), but this is McPhee at his best. If you are a McPhee fan, this is a must have - period, full stop, end of sentence.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Frank P. RobertsonA great collection of John McPhee stories.

Table of Contents is a collection of eight pieces that range from Alaska to New Jersey, describing, for example, the arrival of telephones in a small village near the Arctic Circle and the arrival of wild bears in considerable numbers in New Jersey, swarming in from the Poconos in search of a better life ("Riding the Boom Extension," "A Textbook Place for Bears").In "North of the C.P. Line" the author introduces his friend John McPhee, a bush-pilot fish-and-game warden in northern Maine, who is also a writer. The two men met after the flying warden wrote to *The New Yorker* complaining that someone was using his name. Maine also is the milieu of "Heirs of General Practice," McPhee's highly acclaimed reportvirtually a book in itselfon the new medical specialty called family practice. Much of it takes place in the examining rooms of a dozen young physicans in various rural communities, where they are seen in the context of their work with a great many patients of all ages.Two relatively short pieces revisit the subjects of earlier McPhee books. "Ice Pond" demonstrates anew the innovative genius of the physicist Theodore B. Taylor, who developed a way of making and using with impressive results in the conservation of the electrical energy. "Open Man" describes a summer day in New Jersey in the company of Senator Bill Bradley.In "Minihydro," various small-scale entrepreneurs in New York State set up turbines at nineteenth-century mill sites and sell electricity to power companies. A nice little country waterfall can earn as much as two hundred dollars a year for someone with such a turbine. And, "Under the Snow," McPhee Goes back into black bear's dens in Pennsylvania in winter, where he becomes intoxicated with affection for some five-pound cubs. They remind him of his daughters.

From *Library Journal*Eight essays of varying length, all reprinted from the *New Yorker*, make up this collection of vintage McPhee. Most of the pieces deal with people who have taken the less traveled path, such as Pat McConnell, who is in charge of all New Jersey's fur-bearing mammals, including bears (yes, there are bears in New Jersey); Richard Hutchinson, who runs a truly tinkertoy power company in Circle City, Alaska; and Dr. David Jones, who practices family medicine in the far reaches of Aroostook County, Maine. Rather incongruously, there is also a profile of Senator Bill Bradley of New Jersey, the only celebrity included. Although not a first purchase item for libraries, *Table of Contents* is a civilized book in the best sense of that word. Kenneth F. Kister, Tampa, Fla.Copyright 1985 Reed Business Information, Inc. Here is McPhee at his most ingenuous and winning, a writer for all seasons. George Core, *The Sewanee Mr. McPhee* is in top form, and his voice, fairly constant from piece to piece, provides sufficient unity. Noel Perrin, *The New York Times Book* Eight essays of varying length, all reprinted from *The New Yorker*, make up this collection of vintage McPhee. Most of the pieces deal with people who have taken the less traveled path, such as Pat McConnell, who is in charge of all New Jersey's fur-bearing mammals, including bears (yes, there are bears in New Jersey); Richard Hutchinson, who runs a truly tinkertoy power company in Circle City, Alaska; and Dr. David Jones, who practices family medicine in the far reaches of Aroostook County, Maine. Rather incongruously, there is also a profile of Senator Bill Bradley of New Jersey, the only celebrity included . . . *Table of Contents* is a civilized book in the best sense of that word. Kenneth F. Kister, *Library Journal*These pieces demonstrate once again the many reasons for reading McPhee. He has a talent for unearthing arcane subject matter. He is an extraordinary stylist. His work is the standard by which most literary nonfiction is judged these days. James Kaufmann,*The Christian Science Monitor* (Eastern edition)[This work] reflects McPhee's continuing interest in the natural aspect of this world, and he writes about natural things almost for love's sake alone and not in the disgruntled mode of some latter-day Thoreau. The opening essay, 'Under the Snow,' illustrates McPhee's beautifully controlled state of mind and temperament. It also exhibits his characteristic talent for getting unusual stories out of seemingly common materials--in this case, the revelation of the many black bears' dens in Pennsylvania. A precise and lovely prose describes a state biologist reaching into a den whose sow has been calmed by the hypodermic jab stick: 'From deeps of shining fur, he fished out cubs.' This is a disarming kind of simplicity. Thomas P. McDonnell, *National About the Author*John McPhee was born in Princeton, New Jersey, and was educated at Princeton University and Cambridge University. His writing career began at *Time* magazine and led to his long association with *The New Yorker*, where he has been a staff writer since 1965. Also in 1965, he published his first book, *A Sense of Where You Are*, with Farrar, Straus and Giroux, and in the years since, he has written nearly 30 books, including *Oranges* (1967), *Coming into the Country* (1977), *The Control of Nature* (1989), *The Founding Fish* (2002), *Uncommon Carriers* (2007), and *Silk Parachute* (2011). *Encounters with the Archdruid* (1972) and *The Curve of Binding Energy* (1974) were nominated for National Book Awards in the category of science. McPhee received the Award in Literature from the Academy of Arts and Letters in 1977. In 1999, he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for *Annals of the Former World*. He lives in Princeton, New Jersey.