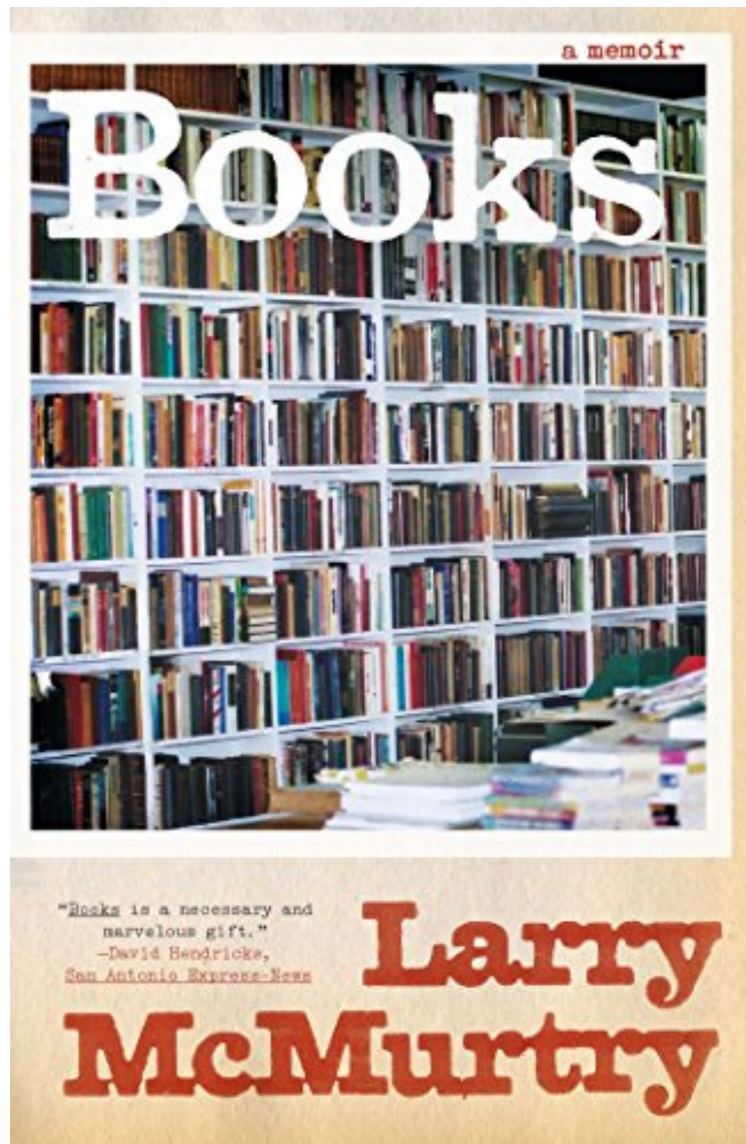


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Books: A Memoir

Larry McMurry

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Larry McMurry : Books: A Memoir before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Books: A Memoir:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I enjoyed the short chapters of this By Ginger Thornton I enjoyed the short chapters of this. Each essay was short, so it kept the book moving right along. However, they were so disjointed, that neither theme nor chronology seemed to flow from one to the other. This desperately needed a good editor. Many asides here could have been cleared up with a simple Google search (and yes, this has been written since the advent of

Google, as he mentions throughout) in reference to geography, family connections, history, etc. Fans of McMurtry will likely enjoy his voice and stories, but unless you're a book buyer/book seller/fine books collector, there's little here to interest. I wearied a bit of the (unimpressive, as I'm apparently not in tune with fine book collecting) name-dropping. Lists of stock, blocks of purchase, books, bookstores purchased from were dull. There were a few mentions and gems among the essays here, and the second half gets a little better than the first as he begins to talk about more general books, rather than collector's interests (such as inscriptions, etc. that make books more or less valuable). But this is easily skipable. I'm glad it only took me a few hours to complete, because it would not have been worth any more time. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Near FineBy Harrison TaulLarry McMurtry is a legend in his own right, but for those enthusiasts of bookselling lore such as myself, he takes on a unique significance. Being the author of Cadillac Jack (A modern, fictitious A.S.W. Rosenbach, in my meek opinion), we are well aware of McMurtry's insights into the world of secondhand and antiquarian book sellers. Here, in *Books: A Memoir*, he invites us to take a small peek at the titles in the collection of his experience and knowledge. I give it 4 stars only because of its formatting. McMurtry has a habit of rambling that can sometimes be taxing to follow. However, this is somewhat remedied by his short chapters, which are convenient for the reader on the go. I thoroughly enjoyed this book. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Too broad, too shallowBy Sam LaFoyMr. McMurtry had a richness of knowledge and experiences as a book-dealer and bookstore owner, but he just skimmed along, throwing out names, both well known and those within the book world, but rarely stopping and going deeply enough into any anecdote to feel a part of it. It could have been much more enjoyable and more memorable if he had focussed on fewer people and experiences and offered a bit more of his own feelings and reactions and those of interesting friends and colleagues.

Now in paperback, Larry McMurtry's fascinating and surprisingly intimate memoir of his lifelong passion of buying, selling, and collecting rare antiquarian books: "a necessary and marvelous gift" (San Antonio Express-News). • Acclaimed author: Spanning a lifetime of literary achievement, Larry McMurtry has succeeded at a wide variety of genres, from coming-of-age novels like *The Last Picture Show*, to essays like *In a Narrow Grave*, to the reinvention of the "Western" on a grand scale like the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Lonesome Dove*. Here at last is the private McMurtry writing about himself: as a boy growing up in a largely "bookless" world, as a young man devouring the world of literature, as a fledgling writer and family man, and above all as one of America's most prominent "bookmen." • A work of charm, grace, and good humor: reading *Books* is like reading the best kind of diary—full of wonderful anecdotes, amazing characters, spicy gossip, and shrewd observations. Like its author, *Books* is erudite, full of life, and full of great stories. Yet the most curious tale of all is the amazing transformation of a reluctant young cowboy into a world-class literary figure who has spent his life not only writing books, but rounding them up the way he once rounded up cattle. At once chatty, revealing, and deeply satisfying, *Books* is Larry McMurtry at his best.

.com Best of the Month, July 2008: It wasn't enough for Pulitzer Prize-winning author Larry McMurtry to become one of the most prolific, bestselling, and beloved of American writers. Besides writing nearly forty books, including the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *Lonesome Dove*, he has emerged as one of this nation's greatest bookmen. In *Books: A Memoir*, McMurtry shares with readers his lifelong passion and dogged pursuit of books. In short, gem-like chapters, he paints a fascinating picture of the landscape of American book culture and book selling over a 50-year period. The story is as dusty, musty and crusty as any of McMurtry's fictionalized Westerns, and filled with characters who seem like they stepped out of central casting. Whether you love McMurtry, books, bookstores or a combination thereof, you'll find something to love in *Books: A Memoir*. Settle in with a cuppa coffee and let McMurtry kindle your passion for physical books. --Lauren NemroffFrom Bookmarks MagazineDespite McMurtry's well-deserved reputation as a writer, including a Pulitzer Prize and more than a handful of best sellers, critics are unsure about his latest effort. They cite it as an uneven volume that glosses over some important characters and anecdotes (or, conversely, delves a bit too much into the details of book collecting) and doesn't advance its purported mission of offering a "memoir" of the reticent author's life in books. Some of the vignettes seem to have been dashed off almost as an afterthought, though McMurtry's style can be an acquired taste. Still, even if *Books* doesn't transcend its limited subject matter and won't win over many readers not already familiar with McMurtry's story, devotees will enjoy digging alongside the bookman, thrilling to the next great discovery. Copyright © 2004 Phillips Nelson Media, Inc. From BooklistIn short vignettes, McMurtry writes about collecting, respecting, and loving books, among other topics related to reading and writing. The Pulitzer Prize-winning author tells about discovering books and how his voracious consumption of other peoples' words helped him find his own voice. Dufri's tones are light and conversational. He peppers his reading with pauses, as though he has just realized there is something else he wants to tell listeners. And his knowing laugh makes it seem as if something he has said has triggered another memory. He sounds as though he is speaking off the cuff and not reading a transcript. His full-bodied performance makes this a satisfying listen for McMurtry fans, especially those not expecting a comprehensive memoir. --David Pitt