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George Plimpton

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George Plimpton : Best of Plimpton before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Best of Plimpton:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Great GadflyBy Drew HunkinsStarting in the proper spot - chapters detailing his most well known role as participatory journalist lead off this amusing compendium - the book effortlessly keeps the reader's interest on virtually every page. Whether Plimpton's boxing a heavyweight contender, quarterbacking a professional football team, pitching to a lineup of baseball all-stars or even playing percussion for Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic, he describes it all in vivid detail and with refreshingly well written prose.One chapter delivers an extraordinary look into Ali's locker room just before a championship title defense. Plimpton was lucky enough to have an inside seat with pen and paper in hand to document Ali's pre-fight routine, banter, warmups and jocular manner throughout. From Ali's locker room Plimpton then takes the reader to various anecdotes and crazy stories involving Norman Mailer.The Mailer stories are spotted all over the book and make for the liveliest reading - while at a football game Mailer pulls out a telescope as long as a baseball bat, hovering it just above the heads of the row in front; Mailer at a Long Island costume party incessantly and obsessively all night long swinging the sledgehammer on a strength-testing machine futilely trying to get the plunger to reach the top to ring the bell all the while he's donning a Ben Franklin costume; Mailer trance like, luring young women into staring contests at parties; Mailer over and over again literally ramming heads with other guests at cocktail gatherings; Mailer maniacally thumb wrestling; you get the idea.Plimpton goes on to write of a truly strange dinner he had with Hemingway. During which Hemingway grabs Plimpton's hand in some macho bizarre display of toughness and digs his grip into Plimpton's

palm with a long, almost vice-like death lock; Hemingway's fingernails dig into Plimpton's palm, the world famous novelist refusing to relinquish the painful grip for minutes on end. Plimpton and their fellow dinner companion were actually fearful that it all could've easily ended in an infamous Hemingway fistfight! Included is probably the most in depth expose ever written on head football coach Vince Lombardi. Plimpton had a real knack for drawing out both the most mundane and most astonishing details about Lombardi's methods and practices. Among other things the piece documents his extraordinarily harsh conditioning practices with players not infrequently vomiting and passing out. Kramer's 'Instant Replay' simply didn't capture Lombardi the way Plimpton does here. He's then off to the annual Yale Harvard game. This Ivy football excursion was his young daughter's first taste of the annual rivalry and it's a touching description of that autumnal day between father and daughter. Some of the more intriguing passages delve into the proper decorum while dining at the legendary NYC restaurant Elaine's which was regularly visited by writers, novelists and journalists of the Manhattan set. It comes complete with instructions on handling Woody Allen's table along with the other literary cognoscenti. The Best of Plimpton would be woefully incomplete if it failed to contain Sports Illustrated's mythical French horn playing Sidd Finch. The 168 mph fireballer will live as one of the greatest April Fool's jokes ever published. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Plimpton Knows Best By Carol M. George Plimpton, an accomplished writer and a fine raconteur, has gathered in this book all of his writings that he considered to be his best and each story is superb. His recounting of taking Marianne Moore to the baseball game is one of the most finely-crafted portraits of both Moore and Plimpton that I have had the pleasure of reading. Interestingly enough, the second account of meeting with Marianne is not quite as jewel-like. If you read only one item in the book, I recommend "Music: An Address at a New York Philharmonic Lunch," It paints some hilarious images in my mind that even when I've stopped crying from laughing so hard only two hours later I'd think of some image again and start laughing. Thank you, George Plimpton and Leonard Bernstein for the "Winnipeg Effect". 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great book. And By oliver Great book. And, hey, the one dollar copy I ordered is signed by Mr. Plimpton himself! Check your books more thoroughly next time, book sellers. You may be able to get more money.

Featuring such classic pieces as "The Curious Case of Sidd Finch" and "The Plimpton Small-Ball Theory of Sports Writing"--the smaller the ball the better the writing--this is a rich mix of profiles, essays, and articles from a most talented and unique American literary personality. Photographs.

From Library Journal Founder of the Paris , humorist, adventurer, and contributing editor to Sports Illustrated, Plimpton has selected this anthology of his "best" writing from 35 years of work. Its motif is his "participatory journalism" and how it has enabled him to render more human and accessible such activities as football, baseball, boxing, golf, music, and fireworks; such personalities as John F. Kennedy, George Bush, Leonard Bernstein, Muhammad Ali, Vince Lombardi, Marianne Moore, and William Styron; and such landmarks as Las Vegas, Palm Desert, and Newport, Rhode Island. The pieces range from "Fantasy: Sidd Finch" to "Parody: Truman Capote as Hemingway." Recommended as first-rate belles lettres , to be read in light of Bernstein's description of Plimpton as the "amateur professional."-- Kenneth Mintz, formerly with Bayonne P.L., Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Plimpton, the professional amateur, the dashing public hero, is first and best a writer." —The New Yorker "The Best of Plimpton shows the author to be a quietly adroit stylist with the lightest touch since E.B. White." —Newsweek "The Best of Plimpton shows how much fun life can be." —The Boston Globe "This is a terrific book ... pure crystal...unblemished perfection." —The Los Angeles Times "Beautifully observed and incredibly conceived [George Plimpton's writing] is the dark side of the moon of Walter Mitty." —Ernest Hemingway "[Plimpton] is a craftsman par excellence, a writer at work. The nature of his work has been a lifelong probe into how to have a good time. This volume is a delightful summation of a seriously eclectic career." —St. Louis Post-Dispatch "These 35 profiles, essays, articles and speeches remind us that Plimpton has earned his place at the front tables in New York's best-known watering holes.... Throughout, Plimpton's writing is witty, elegant and enormously entertaining." —Playboy "George Plimpton has a wonderful flair for comic descriptive writing. He has the patience to listen carefully to what others tell him; the imagination to visualize and ask interesting questions; and the persistence to cross-reference the best stories he is told, no matter how much time or travel may be involved. Best of all, he never patronizes, and thus has the power to draw intelligence from a stone." —Christopher Lehmann-Haupt "Plimpton's writing is so fascinating, not only for sports fans but for students of human behavior as well.... Sincerely inquisitive, a receptive listener, and a fluid funny writer." —People "George Plimpton shines in simile--his great device also in characterization, and [he has] an ear for vernacular..." —Marianne Moore "Plimpton has endless curiosity, unshakeable enthusiasm and nerve, and a deep respect for the world he enters." —The New York Times