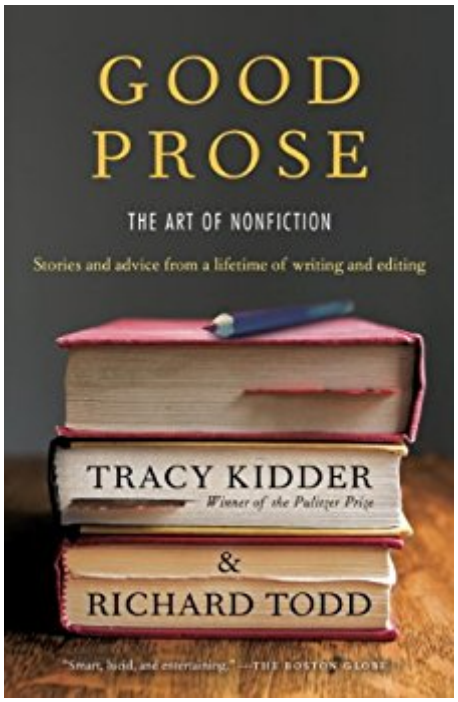
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Good Prose: The Art Of Nonfiction



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Synopsis

NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY KIRKUS REVIEWSGood Prose is an inspiring book about writingÃ¢â ¬â •about the creation of good proseÃ¢â ¬â •and the record of a warm and productive literary friendship. The story begins in 1973, in the offices of The Atlantic Monthly, in Boston, where a young freelance writer named Tracy Kidder came looking for an assignment. Richard Todd was the editor who encouraged him. From that article grew a lifelong association. Before long, KidderÃ¢â ¬â„¢s The Soul of a New Machine, the first book the two worked on together, had won the Pulitzer Prize. It was a heady moment, but for Kidder and Todd it was only the beginning of an education in the art of nonfiction. Ã Â Good Prose explores three major nonfiction forms: narratives, essays, and memoirs. Kidder and Todd draw candidly, sometimes comically, on their own experienceÃ¢â ¬â •their mistakes as well as accomplishmentsÃ¢â ¬â •to demonstrate the pragmatic ways in which creative problems get solved. They also turn to the works of a wide range of writers, novelists as well as nonfiction writers, for models and instruction. They talk about narrative strategies (and about how to find a story, sometimes in surprising places), about the ethical challenges of nonfiction, and about the realities of making a living as a writer. They offer some tart and emphatic opinions on the current state of language. And they take a clear stand against playing loose with the facts. Their advice is always grounded in the practical world of writing and publishing. Ã Â Good ProseÃ¢â ¬â •like Strunk and WhiteÃ¢â ¬â„¢s The Elements of StyleÃ¢â ¬â •is a succinct, authoritative, and entertaining arbiter of standards in contemporary writing, offering guidance for the professional writer and the beginner alike. This wise and useful book is the perfect companion for anyone who loves to read good books and longs to write one.Praise for Good Prose Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“Smart, lucid, and entertaining.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •The Boston Globe Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“You are in such good companyÃ¢â ¬â •congenial, ironic, a bit old-schoolÃ¢â ¬â •that youÃ¢â ¬â„¢re happy to follow [Kidder and Todd] where they lead you.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •The Wall Street Journal Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“[A] well-structured, to-the-point, genuinely useful, and fun-to-read guide to writing narrative nonfiction, essays, and memoir . . . Crisp, informative, and mind-expanding.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Booklist Ã Â Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“A gem . . . The finer points of creative nonfiction are molded into an inspiring read that will affect the would-be writer as much as Anne LamottÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Bird by Bird or Stephen KingÃ¢â ¬â„¢s On Writing. . . . This is a must read for nonfiction writers.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Library Journal Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“As approachable and applicable as any writing manual available.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Associated PressFrom the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

But not great. I've read a few things by Tracy Kidder and I wasn't blown away but there aren't too many books for non-fiction writing out there worth their salt so I tried this one. I appreciated the memoir section yet Kidder should have taken his own advice. His memoir about serving a year in Vietnam was dull and seemed pointless.

A unique take on writing and editing nonfiction. Not exactly a how-to, but writers will glean valuable advice from reading the many great anecdotes and examples, as well as the authors' own prose. Fans of Kidder will enjoy his self-deprecating account of his success.

Being a fledgling memoirist, I found this book most helpful. Not only for my own writing, but it helped me better understand and appreciate good non-fiction writing by others.

Excellent guide to writing. Highly recommended

This is a great read!

Excellent guide to writing non fiction or fiction for that matter.

A must have for all writers! The tips from these two are amazing and noteworthy...I enjoyed every word. What an amazing relationship they share and one that is a great read from beginning to end.

It is guide for writers and fun to read about how these two enjoyed their career. I didn't mind at all these two telling me how to write better.

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