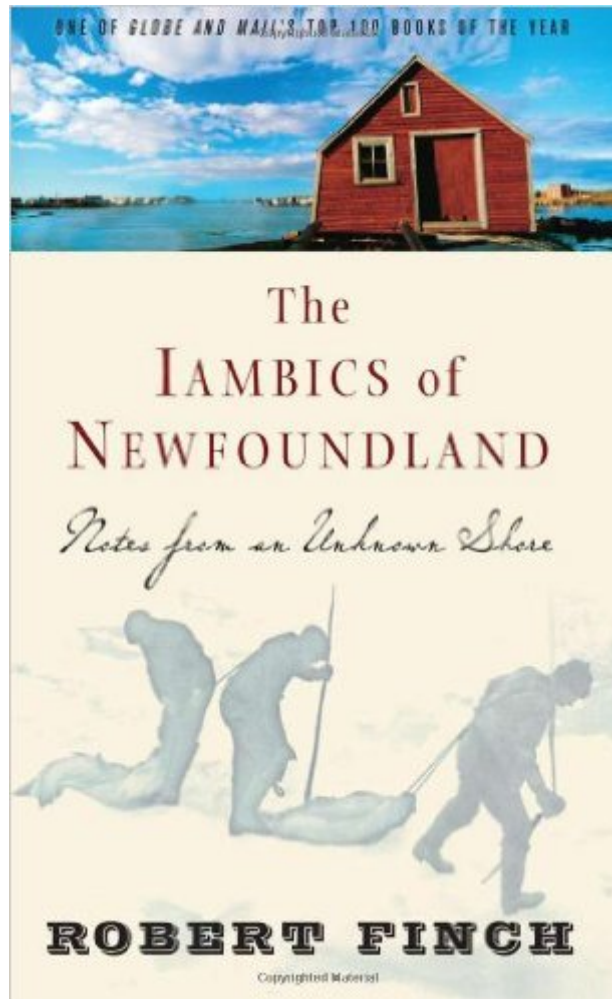


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The Iambics Of Newfoundland: Notes From An Unknown Shore



Synopsis

For nearly a decade, Robert Finch traveled around the edge of North America; the stunning yet seriously inhospitable island of Newfoundland. Here, he chronicles the people, geography, and wildlife of this remote and lovely place. In beautifully written essays, sketches, and stories, Finch roams from verdant valleys to the rocky cliffs of Cape Spear, from Sandy Cove to Squid Tickle, from the steep streets of historic St. John's to the moss-covered tundra of the southern coast. As he describes the land, he brings to life the island's diverse array of characters; newcomers and old-timers, fisherman, hunters, hitchhikers, and children. Most of all, *The Lambics of Newfoundland* shows readers the island itself; an ancient place tucked between provinces, languages, and cultures; struggling to find a footing in the modern world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a very different book from Robert Finch. Unlike his previous collections of essays (*Common Ground*, *The Primal Place*, *Outlands*, etc.), which fall more under the "nature writing" category, *The Lambics of Newfoundland* is more tilted toward describing the people and culture of Newfoundland. To be sure, Robert Finch never made an artificial dividing line between "nature" and "human" in his other books and essays; he has always said that the landscape (of Cape Cod, which is most his other essays are based on) is a living landscape, changed and shaped by natural and human forces (I paraphrase). Nevertheless, if other books are 90% nature writing, this book probably has just 10%, so it reads more like a travelogue. Yet it distinguishes itself from other travelogues because although Finch humbly labeled himself as an "outsider" of this "unknown shore", he really has lived

in Newfoundland for extended periods of time, and as always, his ability to observe and write about the details of the human lives and natural environment gives these essays tapestries of nuances, his descriptions of the accents and dialects of the local people are especially vivid and funny. I am very pleasantly surprised by this book because almost all other books by Robert Finch are about Cape Cod, which is all good, and it will take one a lifetime to really know a place. On the other hand, I have always wished he would venture to other places and write about them. Now, how about the Appalachia where you are originally from, Mr. Finch? I am sure you can do it.

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