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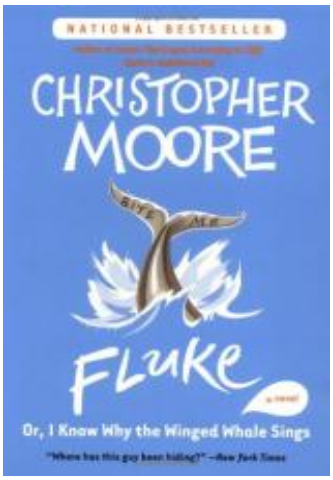
Fluke: Or, I Know Why the Winged Whale Sings

by Christopher Moore



About the Book

Just why do humpback whales sing? That's the question that has marine behavioral biologist Nate Quinn and his crew poking, charting, recording, and photographing very big, wet, gray marine mammals. Until the extraordinary day when a whale lifts its tail into the air to display a cryptic message spelled out in foot-high letters: Bite me.

Trouble is, Nate's beginning to wonder if he hasn't spent just a little too much time in the sun. 'Cause no one else on his team saw a thing -- not his longtime partner, Clay Demodocus; not their saucy young research assistant; not even the spliff-puffing white-boy Rastaman Kona (né Preston Applebaum). But later, when a roll of film returns from the lab missing the crucial tail shot -- and his research facility is trashed -- Nate realizes something very fishy indeed is going on.

By turns witty, irreverent, fascinating, puzzling, and surprising, **Fluke** is Christopher Moore at his outrageous best.

Discussion Guide

1. Is the thrill of discovery what motivates scientists to stick to their work, day after day?

2. Sexuality is a prominent theme in the book. Did you find the sexuality of the whaley boys offensive? Funny? Do you think it's a commentary on traditional human sexual mores?

3. The author has a very distinct writing style, especially when it comes to dialogue and his characters' tendency for flip banter, even in the midst of serious conversations and situations. Do you find this treatment distracting, or humorous?

4. Did this book make you think? What are some of the questions it raised for you?

5. Did this book make you laugh? Is the author's unique sense of humor one that you can appreciate? Do you like

Moore's writing style?

6. Do you think Moore is delivering an effective message about conservation? Has this book inspired you to change your actions? Or was a concern for the environment one of the things that drew you to the book in the first place?

7. What do you know about male-female roles in other animal populations? Are human gender roles in line with those of our fellow creatures? And are societal changes in the last several decades something we can attribute to evolution?

Author Bio

Christopher Moore is the author of numerous novels, including ANIMA RISING, RAZZMATAZZ, SHAKESPEARE FOR SQUIRRELS, NOIR, SECONDHAND SOULS, SACRÉ BLEU, FOOL and LAMB. He lives in San Francisco, California.

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