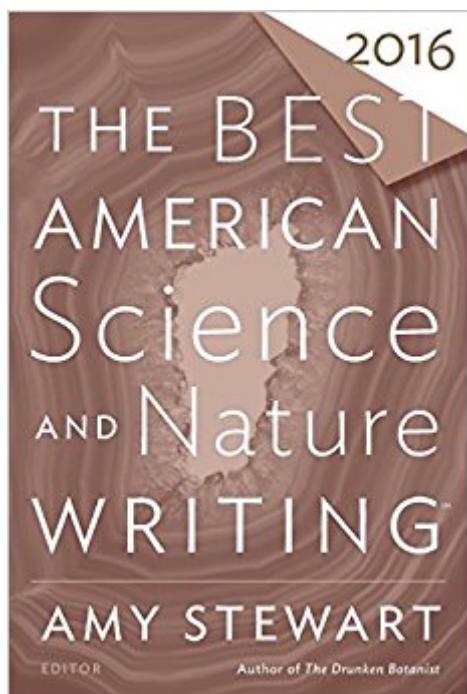


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The Best American Science And Nature Writing 2016 (The Best American Series ®)



Synopsis

Science writers get into the game with all kinds of noble, high-minded ambitions. We want to educate. To enlighten, notes guest editor Amy Stewart in her introduction to *The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2016*. "But at the end of the day, we're all writers . . . We're here to play for the folks." The writers in this anthology brought us the year's highest notes in the genre. From a Pulitzer Prize-winning essay on the earthquake that could decimate the Pacific Northwest to the astonishing work of investigative journalism that transformed the nail salon industry, this is a collection of hard-hitting and beautifully composed writing on the wonders, dangers, and oddities of scientific innovation and our natural world. *The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2016* includes Kathryn Schulz, Sarah Maslin Nir, Charles C. Mann, Oliver Sacks, Elizabeth Kolbert, Gretel Ehrlich, and others. Amy Stewart, guest editor, is the award-winning author of seven books, including her acclaimed *Kopp Sisters* novels and the bestsellers *The Drunken Botanist* and *Wicked Plants*. She and her husband live in Eureka, California, where they own a bookstore called Eureka Books. Tim Folger, series editor, is a contributing editor at *Discover* and writes about science for several magazines. He lives in Gallup, New Mexico.

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Customer Reviews

Science writers get into the game with all kinds of noble, high-minded ambitions. We want to educate. To enlighten, notes guest editor Amy Stewart in her introduction to *The Best American*

Science and Nature Writing 2016. But at the end of the day, we're all writers . . . We're here to play for the folks. The writers in this anthology brought us the year's highest notes in the genre. From a Pulitzer Prize winning essay on the earthquake that could decimate the Pacific Northwest to the astonishing work of investigative journalism that transformed the nail salon industry, this is a collection of hard-hitting and beautifully composed writing on the wonders, dangers, and oddities of scientific innovation and our natural world. The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2016 includes Kathryn Schulz, Sarah Maslin Nir, Charles C. Mann, Oliver Sacks, Elizabeth Kolbert, Gretel Ehrlich, and others. Amy Stewart, guest editor, is the award-winning author of seven books, including her acclaimed Kopp Sisters novels and the bestsellers *The Drunken Botanist* and *Wicked Plants*. She and her husband live in Eureka, California, where they own a bookstore called Eureka Books. Tim Folger, series editor, is a contributing editor at *Discover* and writes about science for several magazines. He lives in Gallup, New Mexico. "

AMY STEWART is the award-winning author of seven books, including her acclaimed fiction debut *Girl Waits with Gun* and the bestsellers *The Drunken Botanist* and *Wicked Plants*. She and her husband own a bookstore called Eureka Books in Eureka, California. TIM FOLGER is a contributing editor at *Discover* and writes about science for several magazines.

I have long been a fan of "The Best of.." series, as well as other compilations focusing on nature writing and this was without a doubt the worst one I have read. Based on her selections in this year's edition, I would never read anything by Amy Stewart. There were numerous pieces that while interesting enough, were loooong and written without literary flair for their length (I'm surprised some weren't editing down in the original publications where they ran). Others, like "Why Are Sports Bras So Terrible" also fit into the barely interesting enough category, yet I'm still scratching my head as to how it fit into the theme of science and nature. Some of the shorter pieces also seemed like ridiculous choices for a "Best of" book, particularly "Back to the Land," which was, by far, not the best piece Orion put out in 2015. Same for "The Modern Moose" which read like a high school Lit student penned it. Nature and Science compendiums should do more than educate and postulate about world problems, they should ALSO inspire readers with wonder and delight, particularly for the nature world. This book failed at that, and I believe because of Stewart specifically since I read lots of great environmental works in 2015 and Tim Folgers listed an equal number of notable works at the end of the book that could/should have been featured in the book. I also think it is poor form to include the same stories in other "Best of" books from the same year, such as "Rotten Ice" and

"What's Left Behind," both of which were in the Best of Travel Writing 2016." (As a side note, I bought this book the same day I found in a used book store the Sierra Club's "American Nature Writing 1996" selected by John Murray. This book was a phenomenal collection of essays for a fraction of the price. Check it out if you want to enjoy some truly inspiring nature writing.

Easily my most anticipated book of the year. The in depth writing, the broad range of subjects and the insights provided by some of the best journalists and authors in the world, make this an exceptional book. I've been following the series for several years and find each year is just as good or better than the last.

An anthology of science and nature based essays can intimidate those of us who failed all the sciences at high school. This collection though is so well written, engaging, informative and surprisingly funny at times, that I enjoyed the book very much. The introduction by Amy Stewart covered all the bases, the place of such writing in history, the need for the journalistic articles as well as the more lighthearted all serve the readers. The goal of this book, of science writers, is to make us look outside of our own spheres, to see beyond the obvious, and to learn about the bigger world. It's a fascinating collection of stories. Some of the essays are pretty light, such as Amy Leach and the Modern Moose. Others are heartbreakingly, the final essay ever written by Oliver Sachs reminds us all of the fact of our own mortality. Please read this. I'm glad I did. It's thought-provoking in the best way, and yes, I did laugh out loud at some of the images and experiences. Bring A Chainsaw: (and other stories from my solo travels)

As always, an excellent addition to the series. I download several of the Best American ... Writing books to my Kindle every year. They make perfect reading for travel, when I don't feel like coping with full-length books. But they always feature excellent writing about important issues.

Continues an excellent series. I use it to catch up on important essays and articles I missed. These are always thoughtfully chosen.

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As in previous years, this collection provides engaging & informative articles from a variety of publications. I always learn something fascinating, & I look forward to reading it every year.

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