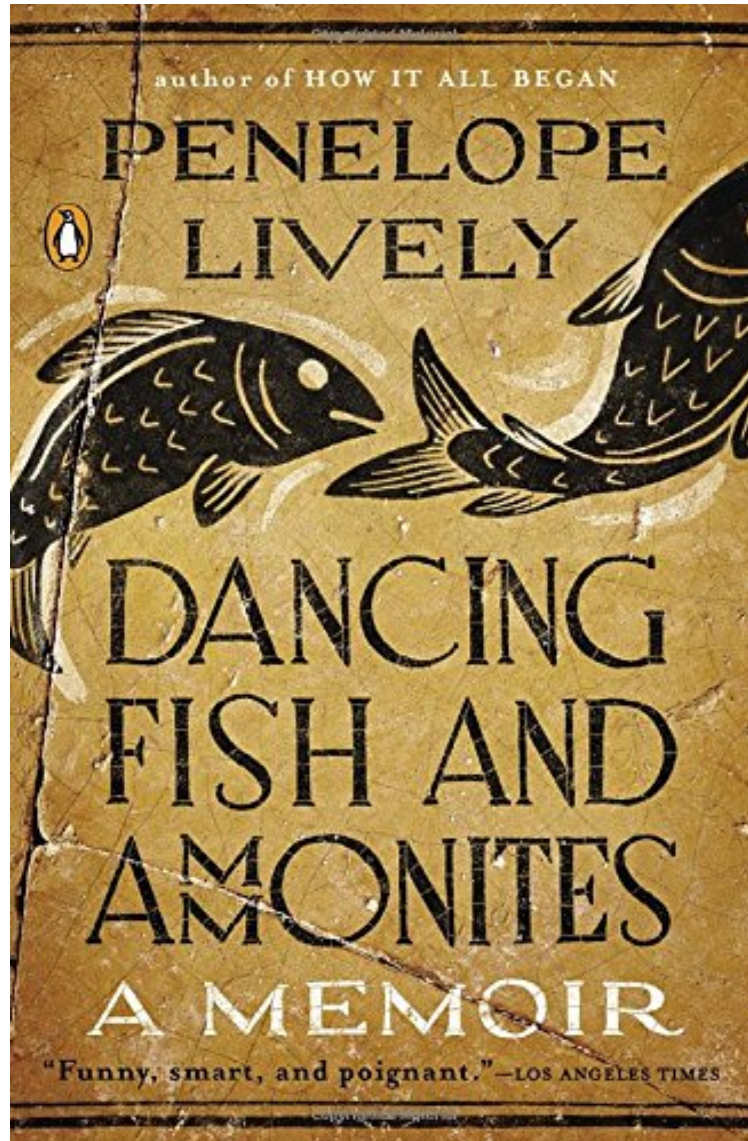


Dancing Fish and Ammonites: A Memoir

Penelope Lively

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#454117 in Books Lively Penelope 2015-06-23 2015-06-23 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.75 x .62 x 5.041, 1.00 #File Name: 014312627X240 pages Dancing Fish and Ammonites A Memoir | File size: 22.Mb

Penelope Lively : Dancing Fish and Ammonites: A Memoir before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dancing Fish and Ammonites: A Memoir:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. New to Penelope Lively By Ziva I read a book review of this book and since I had not read Penelope Lively -- and am also a women of a certain age -- though it would truly speak to me. She imparts some wisdom and makes several astute observations but then it seemed more like rambling that a thoughtful memoir. 47 of 47 people found the following review helpful. "A view of old age itself, that place at which

we arrive with a certain surprise."By Amelia GremelspacherLively has entered that time she feared, "that hazard light worn by the old- slow potentially boring, hard going." While I share that status with Lively, I also believe this book has much to inform those entering the ranks of the aged. After all, there appear to be a lot of us and more on the way. The task to place oneself in the world comes as a reality for us all. I agree with Lively that we are a bit invisible, out of the way, no longer the dominant. I also find it a relief. However, present we are, and Lively's thoughts are instructive and sprightly.I am quite charmed by the ways of viewing age in this book. In particular the review of treasured belongings. Of course I also share with her that legal addiction, reading. Her prose is witty, self deprecating, and literate. Lively's own works are part of my library, and it find enchanting the peppering of titles that share her own life. She has a dignity about diminishment that I admire, and a wry regret that I enjoy. Last, but not the least, the memoirs that apply to her own life come as illustrative of a life culminating in her present state.I would urge you to read this book. The thoughts have a comfort and a wisdom. After all, "the poor have always been with us, now the old are too."0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Penelope Lively is an excellent writer.By Eddie Casson, author of Farm Story - Coming Out of IndianaAn engaging memoir, with respect to memory and aging. Penelope Lively is an excellent writer.

Rare personal reflections from one of our most talented writers (The New York Times Book Review)Look out for Penelope Lively's new book, *The Purple Swamp Hen and Other Stories*.Memory and history have been Penelope Lively's terrain in fiction throughout a career that has spanned five decades. In this funny, smart, and poignant (Los Angeles Times) memoir, she offers a glimpse into her influences and formative years, as well as a view of what life looks like from the vantage point of eighty years. Lively traces the arc of her own life, from early childhood in Cairo to boarding school in England to the sweeping social changes of Britain's twentieth century. She reflects on her early love of archaeology, and on the fragments of the ancients that have accompanied her journey. She also takes an intimate look back at a life devoted to books and writes insightfully about aging.

From BooklistSuperb British novelist Lively (*How It All Began*, 2011) begins her not quite a memoir with bracing yet graceful reflections on old age. The author of two dozen keenly observant books, Lively is intrigued by this phase of life and its metamorphosis of the sensibilities. Her grand subject has always been the workings of the mind, and even as she rues physical miseries, she celebrates ages fostering of an almost luxurious appreciation of the world that you are still in. Lucid and penetrating, Lively looks back to her Egyptian childhood, her fleeing with her mother during WWII, and the shock of cold, bombed London and her parents divorce. As a history major at Oxford, the Suez crisis was for her a baptism by fire, a political awakening. Ever since then, she keeps one ear cocked to the clamor of events. How nimble her episodic stride through the decades, how astute and stirring her perception of memory as the mind's triumph over time, how affirming her gratitude for books and libraries, ancient artifacts and fossils--the endlessly illuminating, tangible past. --Donna Seaman Praise for *Dancing Fish and Ammonites*Buoyant and propulsive . . . *Dancing Fish and Ammonites* is about growing old, about memory and history, about reading and writing. . . . Lively communicates ideas and experiences with flashes of narrative color: the tins of water in which the feet of her crib stood in childhood, to spare her from Cairo's ants; the layout of a beloved garden; the sight of women in felt hats and gloves as they walked past the bombed-out rubble of wartime Britain.The New York Times Book Engaging . . . Lively's writing shines brightest when her discursive remarks demonstrate the methods and preoccupations that have shaped her fiction.The New YorkerFunny, smart and poignant . . . Admirers of Penelope Lively's many fine novels will find the same lucid intelligence at work in her elegantly written view from old age. . . . Memory, history, archaeology, paleontologyfor Penelope Lively, they are all part of our individual and collective effort to retrieve lost time. She chronicles her personal engagement in that quest with wit and rue.Los Angeles TimesA collection of well-written essays that draw on Lively's past as she reflects on the present. . . . Lively notes the physical challenges of aging as well as the pleasures she's given up; some with relief, others with regret. She also reveals a sly sense of humor. . . . Her lifelong love affair with books is the topic of "Reading and Writing," where she mines the quirks of her own personal reading habits and library (her fiction is kept in the kitchen) and the glorious news for readers that the stimulus of old-age reading is the realization that taste and response do not atrophy: you are always finding yourself enthusiastic about something you had not expected to like.Minneapolis Star-TribuneA gift . . . witty, gentle-humored, sharp . . . Throughout Lively is a keen observer and an engaging narrator. . . . Subjects that may, at first glance, seem random and somewhat scattershot take on the elegant coherence of a deeply satisfying conversation.All Things ConsideredAbout the AuthorPENELOPE LIVELY is an award-winning novelist and author of children's literature. She received the Man Booker Prize for her novel *Moon Tiger* and wide acclaim for *The Photograph*, *Family Album*, and *How It All Began*. She lives in London.