



Hogs Wild: Selected Reporting Pieces

Ian Frazier

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"A master of both distilled insight and utter nonsense" (*The Believer*), Ian Frazier is one of the most gifted chroniclers of contemporary America. *Hogs Wild* assembles a decade's worth of his finest essays and reportage, and demonstrates the irrepressible passions and artful digressions that distinguish his enduring body of work.

Part muckraker, part adventurer, and part raconteur, Frazier beholds, captures, and occasionally reimagines the spirit of the American experience. He travels down South to examine feral hogs, and learns that their presence in any county is a strong indicator that it votes Republican. He introduces us to a man who, when his house is hit by a supposed meteorite, hopes to "leverage" the space object into opportunity for his family, and a New York City police detective who is fascinated with rap-music-related crimes. Alongside Frazier's delight in the absurdities of contemporary life is his sense of social responsibility: there's an echo of the great reform-minded writers in his pieces on a soup kitchen, opioid overdose deaths on Staten Island, and the rise in homelessness in New York City under Mayor Bloomberg.

In each dizzying discovery, *Hogs Wild* unearths the joys of inquiry without agenda, curiosity without calculation. To read Frazier is to become a kind of social and political anthropologist--astute and deeply engaged.

Hogs Wild: Selected Reporting Pieces Details

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Jim says

I guess I was expecting humor here, so I was a little disappointed, but he is a good writer. Many of the reports were interesting, though a few I just skipped over because they didn't appeal. Many touched on aspects of our generation, and those I liked best.

Cat. says

These were a lot of fun to read, but I can't finish the book. I've had it from the library for almost six weeks and I'm just not in the right head-space for it. The wild pigs essay was delightful, however.

Danny says

Very good collection of "essays" (mostly magazine articles?) by an author with whom I was previously unfamiliar. Frazier's pieces are all written first-person, usually involving him giving a direct account of the people and places he is reporting on. He tackles a wide variety of subjects from homelessness and opioid addiction to the growing feral hog population. All but one or two were fascinating, despite the seemingly random assortment of topics. Many pieces are based in New York City and he really has a knack for bringing a place to life and making it a character in the narrative. Happy I picked this one up based on a single recommendation!

Jeff says

Essays about homeless populations in New York, wild hogs, horseshoe crabs, etc. Quality writing but he content was generally not that enthralling. Imagine 'this American life' with more science.

Hal says

I thought this one started off very strong, and then sort of dragged on, even though I like his literary asides and turns of phrase. It's a pretty long book. It probably would've been better to just read one essay per week, but it's a library book, so what can you do.

Debbie says

This collection of essays/long format articles addresses a variety of topics such as hunger, homelessness, the environment, the opioid crisis, and even feral hogs. What made them so informative and compelling to read was that the author focused on the individuals who are working on creative solutions to many of the problems facing us today, and that gives me hope for the future.

Judy says

Excellent set of essays/short articles. I enjoyed his writing much more here than that of the last book I read about traveling through the most northerly inhabited places.

Barbara Q says

This is a collection of pieces previously published in Mother Jones, The New Yorker, The Atlantic Monthly and Outside magazines. It's an eclectic mix and all fascinating (to me anyway). Mr. Frazier writes of the homeless in NYC, security at tough hip-hop and rap clubs, feral hogs, Irving Berlin and his wife, the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, of a river guide on the Deschutes in Oregon, the death of Hattie Carroll, Asian carp, meteorites, Strandbeests in the Netherlands..... I am never bored, and my mind never wanders while reading anything he writes.

John Benson says

I have always enjoyed Ian Frazier's writing. These pieces bring out his curiosity, more than his usual humor, though it is in them, but more subtly. Most of the pieces take place around New York City and help us understand the city better. I liked the variety of topics in the essays. One of his stronger books, but he is a writer you can depend on for good writing.

Kristin Evans says

Normally I like these kinds of books. Ian Frazier is a good writer and I enjoyed some of the pieces. As a whole, though, it wasn't one of my favorites.

Jim says

I consider myself pretty well-read, but until about a month ago, I'd never heard of Ian Frazier. But, by chance I saw his earlier work "Gone to New York: Adventures in the City" in the local library, gave it a read, and was highly impressed with his work, so I added some other titles of his to my list.

He is an excellent writer, and can convey despair and absurdity with equal care.

Olga Vannucci says

Nature running wild, and
People too, on Staten Island,
Plus hogs and carp and fungus,
all in abundance.

Kenzie Townsend says

I like essays and long format articles like the New Yorker before it became a classy staple. I like the author's writing it is as if he's sitting across from you. Sure, there are some breaks for quick explanations but it has a nice flow of many different topics. Maybe, like a neighbor trying to show you every travel photo on their iPhone but way more interesting. He captures a lot of America and just displays it like a nice picture. Hung there, at the end of a long hallway so everything comes into focus and we see it.

vgy says

Some 3s, some 4s, but more 4s than 3s.

Marsmannix says

just gave up. interesting but not compelling
