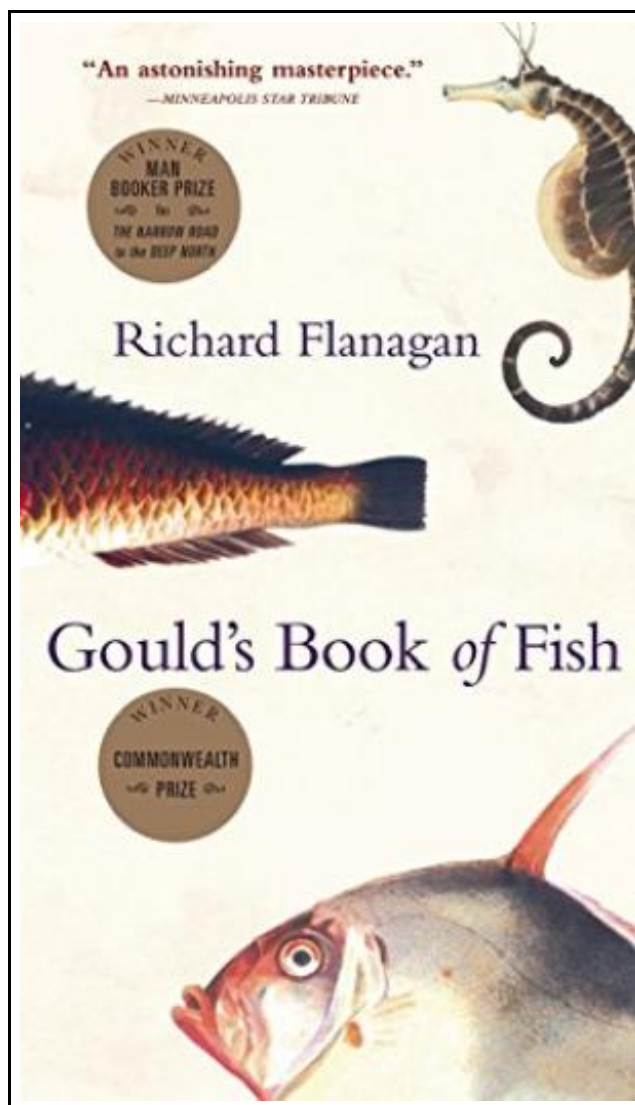


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Grove/Atlantic. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. Dimensions: 8.4in. x 5.8in. x 0.7in. Published in hardcover to outstanding acclaim on both sides of the Atlantic, and winner of the prestigious Commonwealth Writers Prize, Goulds Book of Fish is a marvelously imagined epic of nineteenth-century Australia -- a world of convicts and colonists, thieves and catamites, whose bloody history is recorded in a very unusual taxonomy of fish. Widely hailed as a masterpiece and a work of genius, it stands out as one of the best novels of recent years. Billy Gould was a forger and thief sentenced to life imprisonment in a penal colony in Van Diemens Land -- now Tasmania. After six months he escaped and boarded a whaler for the Americas, but before long his adventures landed him back in prison. The prison doctor Lempriere utilizes Goulds painting talents to create an illustrated taxonomy of the countrys exotic sea creatures, which Lempriere madly believes will assure his place in history and the Royal Society. Lost and re-created, destroyed and hidden, Goulds book finally resurfaces in the present day littered with scrawls recording his unutterably strange life -- part freewheeling picaresque, part tragicomedy -- and that of his country, a penal colony, settlement, and magical space populated by generals, visionaries, and madmen. Goulds Book of Fish is a tour de force that questions the reliability of history and science, and the substance of artistic creation. Michiko Kakutani of The New York Times called it a huge, phantasmagorical work . . . as inventive and visionary in its reimagination of history as Toni Morrisons masterwork, *Beloved*. Goulds Book of Fish . . . is . . . by turns bawdy and pensive, moving and abrasive, visionary and squalid, apocalyptic and confessional. -- Chris Lehmann, The Washington Post Book World Flanagans masterful balancing...

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