



The Secret Life of Clams: The Mysteries and Magic of Our Favorite Shellfish

By Fredericks, Anthony D.

Skyhorse. 1 Cloth(s), 2014. hard. Book Condition: New. It breathes with tubes, it has no head or brain, and filters its food from the water, yet clams have been variously worshipped, used as money, inspired dozens of proverbs ("happy as a clam") and sustained humans for thousands of years. Educator and science writer Anthony Fredericks has long been a fan of this humble bivalve, and here gives us an entertaining natural and popular history of the clam, illustrated with color photos and peppered with fast facts: A single clam can filter five to ten gallons of seawater a day; giant clams have thousands of pinhole eyes that can detect the shadows of predators; and the oldest known clam, "Ming," lived to be more than 500 years old."For those intent on learning how pervasively the modest clam clings to popular culture, The Secret Life of Clams is the book to read. But Fredericks offers more: his study is an accessible foray throughout clam science even while it offers us a metaphor for the fragile status of our entire natural world."Peter Laufer 286.



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