

# FISHES OF THE RAINBOW

By David A. McKee

Illustrations by Henry Compton

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Reviewed by Bill Karnofsky

This book is a compilation of gorgeous paintings of fishes that mostly inhabit coral reefs around the world. These pictures by marine biologist Henry Compton (1928-2002) were found after he had passed away.

If you are a SCUBA diver, snorkeler, aquarium enthusiast, marine conservationist, or have any interest in art, you should thoroughly enjoy this book. David McKee has done an exceptional job of putting these pictures together with the "...imaginative narratives to accompany the paintings, humorous and quirky stories of the fishes in their light-filled, busy, colorful coral worlds" as written by Compton himself.

For the artist who reads this book, there are ample explanations of Compton's water color techniques that even someone who has never held a brush will find fascinating.

Compton was a prolific painter of fishes. He often grouped paintings and labelled the groups. Fishes of the Rainbow, the title McKee gave to this book, is one of those groups. All the fishes in this group live in the upper water column of the world's oceans. Another grouping of Compton's paintings was labelled by him, Fire in the Sea. These pictures are of deep-water fishes and are featured in another book, not surprisingly, entitled Fire in the Sea.

The beautiful fishes in this book are but a sampling of the thousands of fishes that live around coral reefs worldwide. He, Compton, spent decades on research vessels as part of his life-long profession. He was also an avid and talented photographer. The subjects of all his paintings came from the photos he personally took. It would appear Compton selected the ones he felt showed the greatest variety of patterns, markings, and especially colors.

This is a wonderful book for yourself, or as a gift to relatives and friends.

I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.