

'Yates is the best writer on fishing today' *Financial Times* 'A piscatorial Proust' *Observer*

THE LOST DIARY

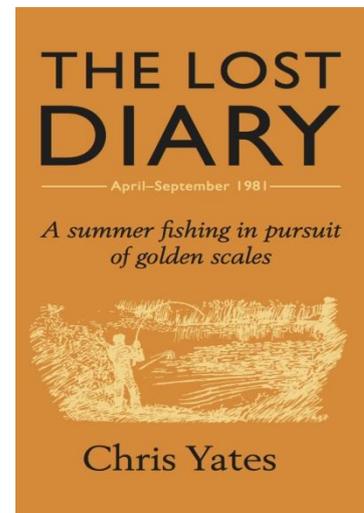
A summer fishing in pursuit of golden scales

By Chris Yates

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'The sun was already below the treeline and the lights were fading fast, but when something loomed forward out of the mud cloud there was no doubt it was a carp - and a good one. The water was only a yard deep where it swam and I was able to follow its slow course back along the edge of the reeds until it nosed down and started rooting around again. I couldn't believe my luck.'

Extract from **The Lost Diary**



In the summer of 1981, celebrated angler Chris Yates set out in pursuit of a dream: to hook a legendary carp in his favourite pool, Redmire, near Ross-on-Wye. He carefully recorded his journey, in words and sketches, in a diary - and then promptly lost it. Rediscovered in a box after more than two decades, the author's recollections of a memorable summer are published for the first time in **THE LOST DIARY**.

Chris Yates has been more or less obsessed by carp since he first spotted one in his local village pond, aged five. By the time he was 32 he had caught what was then the largest British carp ever, a massive fifty-one pounder, in Redmire Pool. He thought this would cure his obsession forever, but just one year later he was dreaming of capturing Redmire's real monster, The King, a fish he'd glimpsed just once, but knew was probably the biggest carp in Europe. The challenge had begun.

THE LOST DIARY is an acutely observed and entertaining account of Yates' final season in pursuit of carp. From April to September 1981 he recorded the days, and nights, he spent on the banks of Redmire, where curlews circled overhead, skylarks warbled, and the fish hid tantalisingly among the weedbeds. Away from Redmire he wrote about discovering new waters, nostalgic pilgrimages to old haunts, meeting new friends, and sharing tales, and the odd beer or two, with old acquaintances from the Golden Scale Club.

About the Author: *A fisherman for more than 50 years, Chris Yates is a prolific writer and broadcaster on angling. He was a co-presenter on BBC2's **A Passion for Angling** and has contributed numerous articles for newspapers and magazines. He is a former editor of **Waterlog** magazine. He lives in Wiltshire.*

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