



NANCY: This fable anthropomorphizes the times in which we live through the eyes of the fish. Their frustrations, actions, conversations and experiences felt hauntingly familiar to me as I read. Greed, disbelief, inertia, and ignoring the obvious are all part of our 21st century life. As our climate heats, we're all in this together, so I love the image of the fish tank, a symbol of planet earth. What will it take to awaken us? Can we do better than the fish? For this I hope, I write, I work. Thank you, Scott Bischke, for adding your voice and this creative work to the chorus of concern and the calls for action



PRISCILLA: Well, it's just a story. A man-made tank and you know fish don't really talk or think or organize like that. It's not real. But I did keep wondering, where was God? Why did he not step in?



SALLIE: I think Professor Brown was God in this story and Augustus (AgainstUs) are our political leaders, just trying to make money and not take care of us or the planet. It's not supposed to be real, Priscilla. But God isn't stopping our destruction of our environment. God put us in charge. It's our job to take care and not leave things in the hands of people who are just trying to take care of themselves, like those crabs and Augustus.



ABIGAIL: Yes, this story rings true for me. After years doing environmental work, I've heard it all. Deceit, status quo, business as usual, even when dramatic change is needed. A depressing book, really.



MOLLY: There's an African word, "Ubuntu", which means "we're all in this together". I kept thinking about that. Capitalism doesn't cut it. We need a new, sustainable system for Planet Earth. Thomas Berry was so right when he said that we'll go into the future together as a single community, or we'll perish in the desert. MAMs, we've gotta do more.



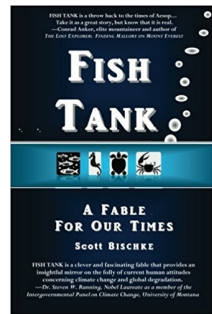
KATHARINE: Well, I wouldn't call this a great piece of literature, but it makes a point. Science and the facts don't seem to matter anymore. How did we become so confused? The Fake News idea really bothers me. Because it's being used to pretend truth is fiction and fiction is truth. This is how dictatorships get start-



JANE: This one makes me wonder how you can get folks to do the right thing. Some people look after the common good, but others just look after themselves and their own group. It's hard. I believe in letting businesses do their things, but if they don't protect the environment, then government must step in. Many Republicans agree with this. I'm not the only one.



Discussion Guide



About the Book

Book Title: Fish Tank: A Fable for our Times

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Questions for Discussion

1. What were your general impressions of this book?
2. A fable is defined as: “a short story, typically with animals as characters, conveying a moral.” How did this compare to other fables you’ve read?
3. What would you say is the moral of this story?
4. What did you think about some of these characters in the book? What did you like/dislike about them and who do you think they represent in our time?
The Professor Brown, Augustus, the Crabs, Doc Hansom, Tommy, Alistair Dusty, Others
5. Were you surprised with the ending of the book? Why or why not? What do you think the author was trying to communicate with this ending?
6. Read over the MAMs comments on the book. Which of them do you most agree with and why?
7. In what ways, if any, will this change your life or perspective?

Fish Tank Discussion Guide on Scott’s website:

http://www.emountainworks.com/Books/FishTank_discussionGuide_85x11_041012b.pdf

Scroll down on this page to find: <http://www.emountainworks.com/scottbischke/Happenings.aspx>

- A sermon that Scott gave at a church service (31 minutes)
- An audio play version of Fish Tank (79 minutes)