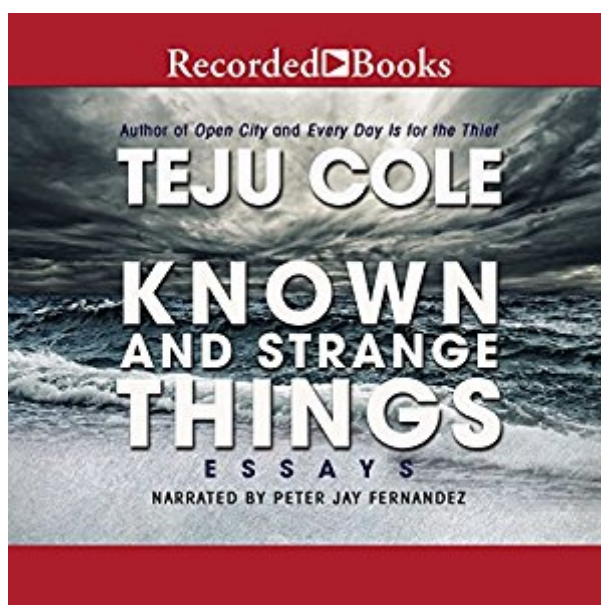


The book was found

Known And Strange Things: Essays



Synopsis

With this collection of more than 50 pieces on politics, photography, travel, history, and literature, Teju Cole solidifies his place as one of today's most powerful and original voices. Minute after minute, deploying prose dense with beauty and ideas, he finds fresh and potent ways to interpret art, people, and historical moments, taking in subjects from Virginia Woolf, Shakespeare, and W. G. Sebald to Instagram, Barack Obama, and Boko Haram. Persuasive and provocative, erudite yet accessible, *Known and Strange Things* is an opportunity to live within Teju Cole's wide-ranging enthusiasms, curiosities, and passions and a chance to see the world in surprising and affecting new frames.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 12 hours and 45 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Recorded Books

Audible.com Release Date: August 9, 2016

Language: English

ASIN: B01JBAQRDI

Best Sellers Rank: #67 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Literary

Collections #115 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Artists, Writers &

Musicians #115 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Artists, Architects &

Photographers

Customer Reviews

This book of essays by Teju Cole aren't always essays: they might be scraps of thought, well-digested and to an immediate point. They are fiercely intelligent, opinionated, meaningful in a way that allow us to get to the heart of how another thinks. And does he think! Let's be frank: many of us don't do enough thinking, and Cole shows us the way it can be done in a way that educates, informs, and excites us. The work in this volume are nonfiction pieces published in a wide variety of outlets and that he chose from an eight-year period of travel and almost constant writing. The emphasis in these pieces, he tells us in the Preface, is on "epiphany." • We can enjoy kernels of ideas that may have had a long gestation, but have finally burst onto the scene with a few sentences but little heavy-handedness or any of the weight of "pronouncements." • This reads

like a bared heart in the midst of negotiating life, as James Baldwin says in *The Fire Next Time*, "I live as nobly as possible, for the sake of those coming after us." Cole references Baldwin in all these pieces in his unapologetic gaze, but he does so explicitly in several pieces, notably "Black Body" in which he tells of visiting the small town in Switzerland, Leukerbad (or Loèche-les-Bains), where Baldwin's *Go Tell It on the Mountain* found its final form. Cole expands on his time in Switzerland in "Far Away From Here," which might be my favorite of these essays. Cole tells how he was given six months to live and write in Zurich and though he did precious little writing, he was totally absorbed every day, gazing at the landscape, walking the mountains, photographing the crags, trails, and lakes, thinking, unfettered. This is someone who carries all he needs in his head, and I loved that freedom as much as he.

Given the success of "Open City" and "Every Day is for the Thief", I think of Teju Cole as predominantly a writer - and a very good one at that. However, as is clear from the get-go, he is also an art historian and amateur photographer. I mention this because it helps me to describe this book. In nearly every essay of the book, there is a sense that Cole is standing behind the lens of a camera, carefully curating the image in the viewfinder. Eventually, he has found the most revealing, meaningful image and uses this as a launching point for the evocative description of a novelist and the precise contextualization of a historian. Structurally, the book is split into three sections: "Reading things", "Seeing things", and "Being there." In "Reading things," he explores the writers and poets that have had the most influence on him. He opens with an essay about James Baldwin and the commonalities - and limits of that identity - that is especially germane, given the current national discussion of identity. Along the way, we meet great personages, either imaginatively with Baldwin as above or through actual meetings such as with V.S. Naipul. It is interesting that all of these artists are male, given his efforts to transcend any one personal definition. Overall, however, with the exception of the aforementioned essays and one on the poet Transtomer, this is the weakest section of the book. It lacks the vividness and passion that the rest of the book so brilliantly exploits. The second section, "Seeing things," focuses on art. It is here that one can truly sense Cole's love of the visual. His writing is bright and spry in its descriptions, never getting bogged down with trying to describe inexplicable elements.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Known and Strange Things: Essays Things I Wish I'd Known Before We Got Married 101 Things I Wish I'd Known When I Started Using Hypnosis How to Use Graphic Design to Sell Things, Explain Things, Make Things Look Better, Make People Laugh, Make People Cry, and (Every Once in a

While) Change the WorldÂ Strange Things Happen: A Life with The Police, Polo, and Pygmies
Consider the Lobster and Other Essays (Selected Essays) Why Tango: Essays on learning,
dancing and living tango argentino (Tango Essays Book 1) The Book of Strange New Things: A
Novel The Groom's Instruction Manual: How to Survive and Possibly Even Enjoy the Most
Bewildering Ceremony Known to Man (Owner's and Instruction Manual) The Sixth and seventh
books of Moses: or, Moses' magical spirit art, known as the wonderful arts of the old wise Hebrews,
taken from the Mosaic books ... and the Talmud, for the good of mankind The Story of Titanic for
Children: Astonishing Little-Known Facts and Details About the Most Famous Ship in the World
Apples of Uncommon Character: Heirlooms, Modern Classics, and Little-Known Wonders The LDN
Book: How a Little-Known Generic Drug _ Low Dose Naltrexone _ Could Revolutionize Treatment
for Autoimmune Diseases, Cancer, Autism, Depression, and More From Oz to Kansas: Almost
Every Black and White Conversion Technique Known to Man (Voices That Matter) Murder in the
Bayou: Who Killed the Women Known as the Jeff Davis 8? Llewellyn's 2017 Astrological Calendar:
84th Edition of the World's Best Known, Most Trusted Astrology Calendar Wish I'd Known You
Tears Ago (Horse Dreams Trilogy, Book 3) Animals I Have Known Britain's Future in Europe: The
Known Plan A to Remain or the Unknown Plan B to Leave Bears I Have Known

[Dmca](#)