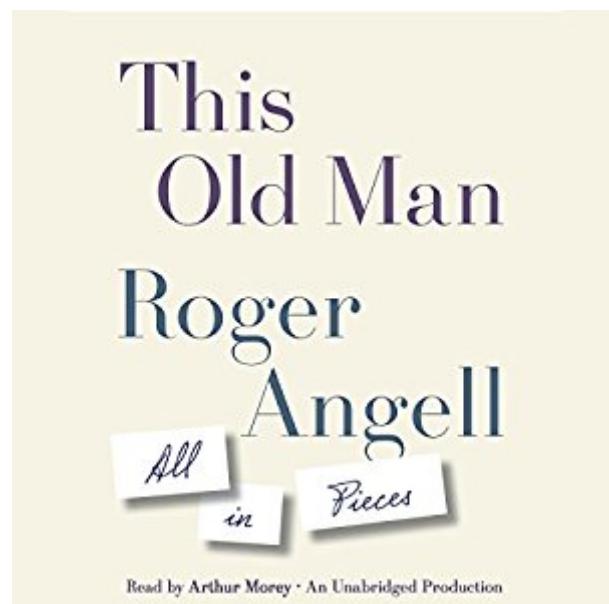


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# This Old Man: All In Pieces



## Synopsis

Roger Angell, the acclaimed New Yorker writer and editor, returns with a selection of writings that celebrate a view from the tenth decade of an engaged, vibrant life. Long known for his range and supple prose (he is the only writer elected to membership in both the Baseball Hall of Fame and the American Academy of Arts and Letters), Angell won the 2015 American Society of Magazine Editors' Best Essay award for "This Old Man", which forms a centerpiece for this audiobook. This deeply personal account is a survey of the limitations and discoveries of great age, with abundant life, poignant loss, jokes, retrieved moments, and fresh love, set down in an informal and moving fashion. A flood of listeners from different generations have discovered and shared this classic piece. Angell's fluid prose and native curiosity make him an amiable and compelling companion. The book gathers essays, letters, light verse, book reviews, Talk of the Town stories, farewells, haikus, profiles, Christmas greetings, and late thoughts on the costs of war. Whether it's a Fourth of July in rural Maine, a beloved British author at work, Derek Jeter's departure, the final game of the 2014 World Series, an all-dog opera, editorial exchanges with John Updike, or a letter to a son, what links the pieces is the author's perceptions and humor, his utter absence of self-pity, and his appreciation of friends and colleagues - writers, ballplayers, editors, artists - encountered over the course of a full and generous life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This Old Man: All in Pieces by Roger Angell Roger Angell is like an 'institution' among writers and

New Yorkers. Writers? That's easy, because he's been a fiction editor and contributor at The New Yorker for decades now. New Yorkers? Ah, that's mostly because of baseball, of course, and Angell's many columns, articles and books about America's favorite pastime that have piled up over the past fifty years or so. And New Yorkers do love their baseball, dating back to the days of the Brooklyn Dodgers and the New York Giants - and New York-born Angell, at 95, certainly does date back that far, demonstrating in vivid terms his memories of Lefty Grove, Duke Snider, Joe DiMaggio, Mickey Mantle and others. Me, I love Angell because of the books, the writers, all the literary connections he's made and maintained throughout the years. Giants like John Updike. "Colleagues for more than half a century," Angell collaborated with Updike - by phone, courier and email - in editing the scores of Updike short stories that graced the pages of their magazine over the years. An Updike enthusiast since college, I relished this description of the shy, gentle man - "Now and then he would turn up at the office, startling me once again with his height and his tweeds, that major nose, and his bright eyes and up-bent smile; he spoke in a light half-whisper and, near the end of each visit, somehow withdrew a little, growing more private and less visible even before he turned away. The fadeaway, as I came to think of it ..." There are small, equally incisive portraits of other literary figures, some famous, some not - Bobbie Ann Mason, Philip Levine, Ann Beattie, Donald Barthelme, Nabokov, William Stieg, as well as his famous stepfather, E.B. "Andy" White.

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