# **Noodling: An Epic Noodle Journey**

Noodling, also known as handfishing, is an extreme fishing technique that involves catching catfish by hand in their underwater dens. This unique and thrilling method has gained a cult following among adventurous anglers around the world.



#### NOODLING: An Epic Noodle Journey by Lawrence Stern

★ ★ ★ ★ 5 out of 5

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#### The Thrill of the Hunt

Noodling is not for the faint of heart. It requires a combination of skill, courage, and a healthy dose of adrenaline. Noodlers typically target large catfish, such as blue and flathead catfish, which can weigh up to 100 pounds or more. These fish are often found in deep holes and crevices, where they hide during the day.

To catch a catfish by noodling, the angler must first locate a suitable den. This can be done by feeling around the bottom of the river with their hands or by using a probe. Once a den has been found, the noodler will carefully insert their hand into the hole and feel around for the fish. If a catfish is present, it will typically latch onto the noodler's hand with its sharp teeth.

The noodler must then slowly and carefully pull the catfish out of the hole. This can be a difficult and dangerous task, as the fish may be strong and aggressive. Noodlers often use a "noodling glove" to protect their hands from the catfish's teeth and spines.

#### **Dangers of Noodling**

Noodling is a dangerous sport, and noodlers must take precautions to avoid injury. Catfish are powerful fish, and their bites can be severe. Noodlers should always wear a life jacket and be accompanied by a buddy when fishing in deep or fast-moving water.

Other hazards of noodling include:

- Drowning
- Hypothermia
- Infection from catfish bites
- Snapping turtles
- Water snakes

#### **Noodling Culture**

Noodling has a rich culture and tradition in the United States, particularly in the southern states. Noodling tournaments are held throughout the country, and there are even professional noodlers who make a living from catching catfish by hand.

Noodlers are a passionate and close-knit community. They share a love of the outdoors, fishing, and adventure. Noodling is more than just a sport for them; it is a way of life.

#### **Noodle Recipes**

Noodling is not just about catching catfish; it's also about eating them!

Catfish is a delicious fish that can be prepared in a variety of ways. Here are a few popular noodle recipes:

- Fried catfish
- Catfish stew
- Catfish gumbo
- Catfish tacos
- Catfish po'boys

#### **Noodling: A Unique and Unforgettable Experience**

Noodling is a unique and unforgettable experience that offers a thrilling blend of adventure, danger, and culinary delight. If you are looking for a new and exciting way to catch fish, then noodling is definitely worth considering.

However, it is important to remember that noodling is a dangerous sport and should only be attempted by experienced anglers. If you are new to noodling, be sure to find a qualified guide to help you get started.



**Blue Catfish** 



**Flathead Catfish** 



**Noodling Glove** 



## **Noodling in Action**



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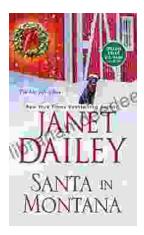
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