The book takes the form initially of a dialogue between a fisherman, a hunter and a falconer, each describing the wonders of his outdoor sport. The angler, named Piscator, seems at a disadvantage, and is slightly chided by the other two for having the most boring and least sporting of the avocations. In wonderfully rambling monologues, he defends the nobility of what he calls his Art, explains its history and cites its origin in ancient texts, muses on its various aspects, and touches on numerous related philosophical, Biblical, and naturalistic concerns. "The Compleat Angler, or the Contemplative Man's Recreation, being a discourse of Fish and Fishing, not unworthy the perusal of most Anglers, of 18 pence price. Written by Iz. Wa. While "The Compleat Angler" was regarded mainly as a text-book for practical anglers, one can understand its publisher wishing to make it as complete as possible by the addition of such technical appendices; but now, when it has so long been elevated above such literary drudgery, there is no further need for their perpetuation. For I imagine that the men to-day who really catch fish, as distinguished from the men who write sentimentally about angling, would as soon think of consulting Izaak Walton as they would Dame Juliana Berners. The Complete Angler, or the Contemplative Man's Recreation (Classic Reprint). Isaak Walton. 3.9 out of 5 stars 159. A completely outdated book in so many ways, yet but with a charm that surely makes it an absolute 'must have' for even the most modern contemplative angler. Surely a must have for any fisher. The observation of 'The contemplative mans pastime' is so apt with regard the Complete Angler. I just had to have a copy on my kindle. The most entertaining hard copy I have found, thus far, is the 'Routledge Warnes & Routledge' edition marked 1859. Page xxi - Complete Angler; or, The Contemplative Man's Recreation : being a Discourse of Rivers, Fishponds, Fish and Fishing, written by IZAAK WALTON ; and Instructions how to Angle for a Trout or Grayling in a clear Stream, by CHARLES COTTON. Appears in 705 books from 1604-2007. Page 237 - Here's no fantastic masque, nor dance, But of our kids that frisk and prance; Nor wars are seen, Unless upon the green Two harmless lambs are butting one the other... Appears in 142 books from 1775-2006.