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Distant Fires (Turtleback School & Library Binding Edition)



Synopsis

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Book Information

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Customer Reviews

YA-- Take two college men, lots of food, sleeping bags and fishing poles, throw it all into one canoe, and the result is the makings of true adventure. Anderson and a friend set out from Duluth, Minnesota on a 1700-mile trip that ended on the shores of Hudson Bay. Written informally, and with many glimpses of the travails of camping and canoeing, the author provides humorous episodes involving furious losing battles with mosquitoes, a recalcitrant tent that doesn't stay up in the wind, and cooking innumerable pots of macaroni and cheese for breakfast. Readers will also experience the serenity of the northwoods, the satisfaction of canoeing 50 miles a day, sunrises and sunsets over the water, and the kindness of strangers met along the way. For outdoor adventurers, or those who wish to travel vicariously, this is the book.- Pam Spencer, Jefferson Sci-Tech, Alexandria, VA
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Following much the same route taken by Eric Severeid and Walter Port in 1930 ([Canoeing with the Cree](#)), Anderson and his college friend set out to canoe up lakes Superior and Winnipeg and down the Gods River to York Factory on Hudson's Bay. The three-month, 1700-mile trip was full of wind, rain, and discomfort, but Anderson's account is also filled with humor, a youthful zest for life, and a mature sense of the history and culture through which they passed. "Life is pursuit, not the capture,"

he believes, and the "distant fires" of the North remain a goal even as this particular journey is ended. Neither a how-to nor a step-by-step description, this is an enthusiastic tale of following a dream. Recommended especially for public libraries and YA collections.- Roland Person, Southern Illinois Univ. Lib. , CarbondaleCopyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Seems like there's a mini-industry made of books where young men re-trace the steps of Eric Sevareid and his pal in "Canoeing With The Cree." This wasn't my favorite, but I still found it enjoyable.

Distant Fires is a fast read, but an enjoyable one. Scott Anderson and his friend Steve Baker spend several months during the summer of 1987 in a canoe, following the path of two of their explorer heroes - Walter Port and Eric Sevareid, who wrote Canoeing with the Cree. The latter two men made a voyage from Lake Superior up through Canada to Hudson bay in 1930 (I'm reading that book now and am really enjoying it!). Anderson and his friend did their best to exactly duplicate this trip, down to details like carrying their canoe from their front door in Duluth Minnesota to the lake several miles away. What I really enjoyed about this book was the upbeat writing style. Even recounting miserable nights spent in sleeping bags in frigid rain, Anderson adds a little humor and understatement to the story. A similar book I read recently got bogged down in the difficult parts, which changed the whole mood of the book. I liked that they were broke college kids and didn't have the best and latest in wilderness gear or food. I enjoyed the way they interacted with American, Canadian and Native locals along the way. I wish I'd had adventures like theirs when I was a carefree 20 year old! The book is full of the things you'd expect of a river adventure in Canada - mosquitoes and blackflies, portaging through swamps and around rapids, getting lost on the wrong branches of rivers, and sightings of moose, caribou and large fish. But Anderson adds a magical touch to his story when he tells of nights that they saw the Aurora Borealis, and about the spray from the falls and the mass hatching of Mayflies/Fishflies they paddled through. This is a really great book that I'm sure any outdoorsy person will enjoy.

This an inspiring and interesting book -- suitable for adults and young adults. I gave a copy to my friends who are canoeing enthusiasts and they could not put it down. I've only been in a canoe a few times (and tipped it over once!) but that did not diminish my enjoyment of this true tale of adventure and persistence. The young men are good hearted and likable, as are the people they

meet on their travels.

A couple of guys take the adventure of a lifetime. What's not to like. An interesting comparison with "Canoeing with the Cree," especially where the two routes overlapped. Also nice to note the changes over time. I liked the author's dry humor.

Two young men from Duluth load up a canoe and follow the wilderness waterway path described by Eric Sevareid in "Canoeing with the Cree" some sixty years earlier. I truly enjoyed the tale their journey, particularly the author's dry sense of humor! Well done!

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A friend insisted that I read this book and I finally did to get him off my back. It was is a wonderfully told story about two friends who had a lot of fortitude to undertake and complete this challenging journey.

It is a well written documentary of an adventure that follows by some 57 years, a similar adventure by Eric Sevareid and Walt Port described in "Canoeing With The Cree".

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