

[Ebook pdf] Kayaking the Full Moon: A Journey Down the Yellowstone River to the Soul of Montana

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Steve Chapple

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before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Kayaking the Full Moon: A Journey Down the Yellowstone River to the Soul of Montana:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Yellowstone River History By James Sammons Anyone who grew up in Montana will enjoy this book 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Nicole Beck Great! 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A Montana Adventure for All By A Customer Steve Chapple's story of a kayak trip down the Yellowstone touches the heart of Montana and Montanans, describing the very soul of that elusive "Montana Spirit". It is a heartwarming book of family values and community, with the excitement of the kayak trip thrown in for good measure. His expertise with the language and his ability to describe makes this one of the best books I've read in recent years!

This chronicle of the author's kayaking trip down the length of the Yellowstone River combines a stirring portrait of Montana and its people with a powerful vision of what an unspoiled America might look and feel like. First serial to New York Times Sunday travel section and the San Francisco Examiner Chronicle.

From Publishers Weekly After living in San Francisco for 10 years, Chapple (Burning Desires: Sex in America) tired

of city problems and decided to move back to his native Montana. The first leg of the return to his roots was to be a kayak trip down the Yellowstone River from Gardiner, Mont., to the confluence of the Missouri. He and his wife outfitted themselves with high-tech equipment and professional guides, but they also brought along their two small sons, with the result that the yearlong expedition involved more time spent in hotels, motels and a rented recreational vehicle--dealing with live-in nannies, bouts of flu and concerns about the weather--than in roughing it on the river. There are white-water adventures, but most of this impressionistic, disconnected narrative is comprised of family reminiscences, snatches of history and conversations with innkeepers, bartenders, farmers, ranchers, native Americans and numerous other cantankerous and free-spirited Montanans, including the maverick dinosaur hunter, John ("Jack") Horner. Some of these vignettes are amusing, but ultimately the reader finds the jumble tedious. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal

After ten years of urban life in San Francisco, Chapple, a writer, returned to Montana to rediscover his roots. Along with his wife and two young children, he decided to kayak down the Yellowstone River, the last unspoiled and undammed river in the United States. Their journey of discovery began at Gardiner, Montana, and ended, 671 miles later, at old Fort Buford. Vignettes about family history, Montana characters (such as John "Jack" Horner and the Spider Lady), and Montana history are sprinkled among brief paragraphs about roughing it down the Yellowstone. Unfortunately, readers learn more about Chapple's family history than about having a white-water adventure, and the confusing narrative will leave them annoyed and frustrated. Recommended for large river and Montana collections only. - Kathy Ellerton, Thomas Jefferson Lib. Syst., Jefferson City, Mo. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus

The longest free-flowing river in America serves as a questing ground for a careworn but game journey of homecoming and self-discovery. The idea was for Chapple (coauthor, *Burning Desires*, 1989; *Don't Mind Dying*, 1980) to kayak the length of the Yellowstone, source to mouth; to break loose from the honk and nonsense of city life; to get reacquainted with a land he'd left many years before; and to find a home for his family. But reality--in the guise of the mean Montana winter--came for an extended visit sometime in September. So the river journey--often tedious, luckless, and fractured--faded into the background, becoming here mostly a narrative device, a mooring around which the author hooks a miscellany of his fascinations: family history; dinosaur digs; bird watching; architectural tours; chats with ranchers and farmers; nature gazing. Chapple has a journalist's instinct for ferreting out background information, and each new town, battlefield, and outpost along his way has a history to be plumbed. These forays into the past make for some of the most enjoyable reading here (e.g., histories of Fort Buford and Fort Union), served forth in true campfire style. Meanwhile, ginger probings among the author's ancestors (including his father, who was 54 when Chapple was born, and who died alone) proved to be psychologically demanding, at times leaving the author in emotional tatters. But despite the vicissitudes of his journey, Chapple pulls off the rare feat of summoning a distinct sense of place: The Yellowstone comes together here as a whole--an ancient, living thing--with personalities as numerous as the types of landscape it crosses. Chapple finds his river of return, and he negotiates the scary parts with real flair. He even manages to reach the Missouri. -- Copyright 1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.