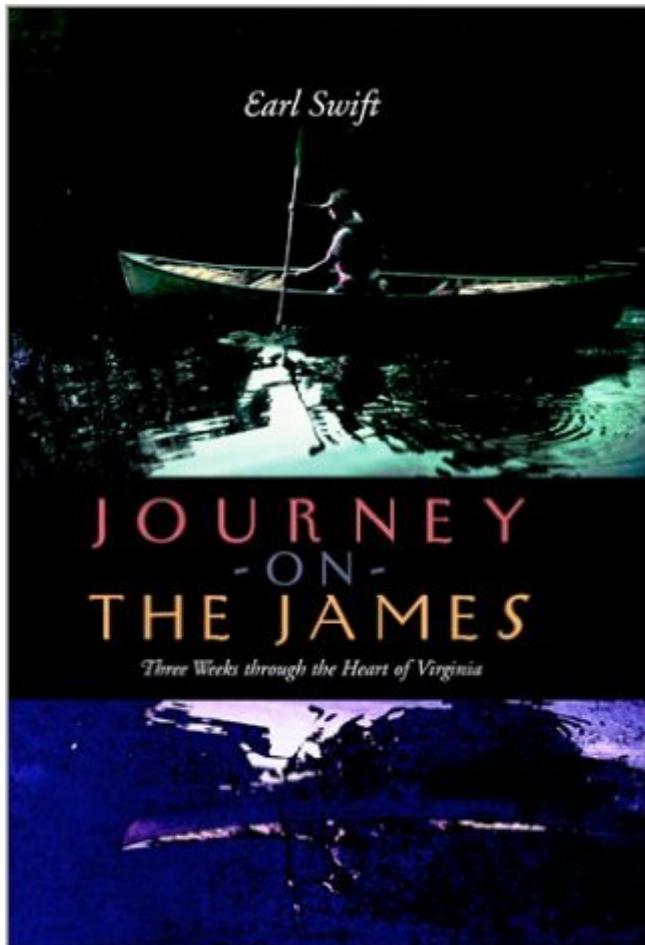


The book was found

Journey On The James: Three Weeks Through The Heart Of Virginia



Synopsis

From its beginnings as a trickle of icy water in Virginia's northwest corner to its miles-wide mouth at Hampton Roads, the James River has witnessed more recorded history than any other feature of the American landscape -- as home to the continent's first successful English settlement, highway for Native Americans and early colonists, battleground in the Revolution and the Civil War, and birthplace of America's twentieth-century navy. In 1998, restless in his job as a reporter for the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot, Earl Swift landed an assignment traveling the entire length of the James. He hadn't been in a canoe since his days as a Boy Scout, and he knew that the river boasts whitewater, not to mention man-made obstacles, to challenge even experienced paddlers. But reinforced by Pilot photographer Ian Martin and a lot of freeze-dried food and beer, Swift set out to immerse himself -- he hoped not literally -- in the river and its history. What Swift survived to bring us is this engrossing chronicle of three weeks in a fourteen-foot plastic canoe and four hundred years in the life of Virginia. Fueled by humor and a dauntless curiosity about the land, buildings, and people on the banks, and anchored by his sidekick Martin -- whose photographs accompany the text -- Swift points his bow through the ghosts of a frontier past, past Confederate forts and POW camps, antebellum mills, ruined canals, vanished towns, and effluent-spewing industry. Along the banks, lonely meadowlands alternate with suburbs and power plants, marinas and the gleaming skyscrapers of Richmond's New South downtown. Enduring dunkings, wolf spiders, near-arrest, channel fever, and twenty-knot winds, Swift makes it to the Chesapeake Bay. Readers who accompany him through his Journey on the James will come away with the accumulated pleasure, if not the bruises and mud, of four hundred miles of adventure and history in the life of one of America's great watersheds.

Book Information

Hardcover: 239 pages

Publisher: University of Virginia Press (March 29, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0813920213

ISBN-13: 978-0813920214

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1 x 9.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (18 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,371,559 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #100 inÂ Books > Sports &

Outdoors > Nature Travel > Adventure > Canoeing #444 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Outdoor Recreation > Canoeing #1766 in Books > Travel > United States > South > South Atlantic

Customer Reviews

On pages 4-5 of the book, the author gives an account of how the idea came about for his canoe trip: "The seeds of our odyssey were sown one afternoon in early 1998, as I stared at a computer screen...this particular afternoon I was awash in ennui. I felt trapped in a routine of regular stories cranked out on regularly spaced deadlines...Then something happened that made me feel a game piece in some cosmic chess match. I was called into a conference with my boss, Dennis Hartig,...I don't remember what he wanted to see me about, but I clearly recall the conversation taking an unexpected turn. 'You know what I think would be a great story?' he suddenly asked. 'You know what story I'd love to see you do someday?'... 'No,' I almost whispered. 'What?' And apropos of nothing we'd ever discussed before, Dennis said: 'A series on canoeing the whole length of the James River.' He clapped his hands, stood up from his chair, practically yelled: 'Wouldn't that be great?'" In addition to recently reading the book, I had also kept abreast of the author's journey when he initially published it as a series of newspaper stories as he travelled the river in 1998. That paper also ran the series in installments over the Internet, where readers not only could follow the writer's passage down the James, but communicate with him via a chat room at the journey's end. The series and the author's comments to readers have been permanently archived on the Internet, and can be found by locating the series, "Journey on the James," clicking on the prompt that says, "Write to Earl Swift", which leads the reader to the Hampton Roads Internet site. At that site, both story and author's dialogue with the readers can be found in the News and Opinion section under the heading of Special Projects.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Journey on the James: Three Weeks through the Heart of Virginia 30th Battalion Virginia Sharpshooters (The Virginia Regimental Histories Series) A Guide to the Snakes of Virginia (Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Wildlife Diversity Division, Special Publication No. 2.1) National Audubon Society Field Guide to the Mid-Atlantic States: New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, Virginia Rock Climbing Virginia, West Virginia, and Maryland (Regional Rock Climbing Series) Journey Through Bavaria (Journey Through series) The Heart of Autumn Collection: Three Memorable Stories Set Under Autumn's Changing Leaves (Seasons of the Heart Book 1) Straight James / Gay James James Brown: A Step-by-Step

Breakdown of the Styles and Techniques of James Brown's Bassists (Bass Signature Licks) James the Brother of Jesus and the Dead Sea Scrolls I: The Historical James, Paul the Enemy, and Jesus' Brothers as Apostles James Bond Volume 1: VARGR (James Bond 007) Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths Yellowstone: A Journey Through America's Wild Heart When the Heart Breaks: A Journey Through Requited and Unrequited Love A Fighter's Heart: One Man's Journey Through the World of Fighting Genesis to Jesus: Studying Scripture from the Heart of the Church (Journey Through Scripture) Daniel's 70 Weeks: Profiles in Prophecy The Action Bible Devotional: 52 Weeks of God-Inspired Adventure (Action Bible Series) Worship Guitar In Six Weeks: A Complete Beginner's Guide to Learning Rhythm Guitar for Christian Worship Music Celebrating Liturgical Time: Days, Weeks, and Seasons

[Dmca](#)