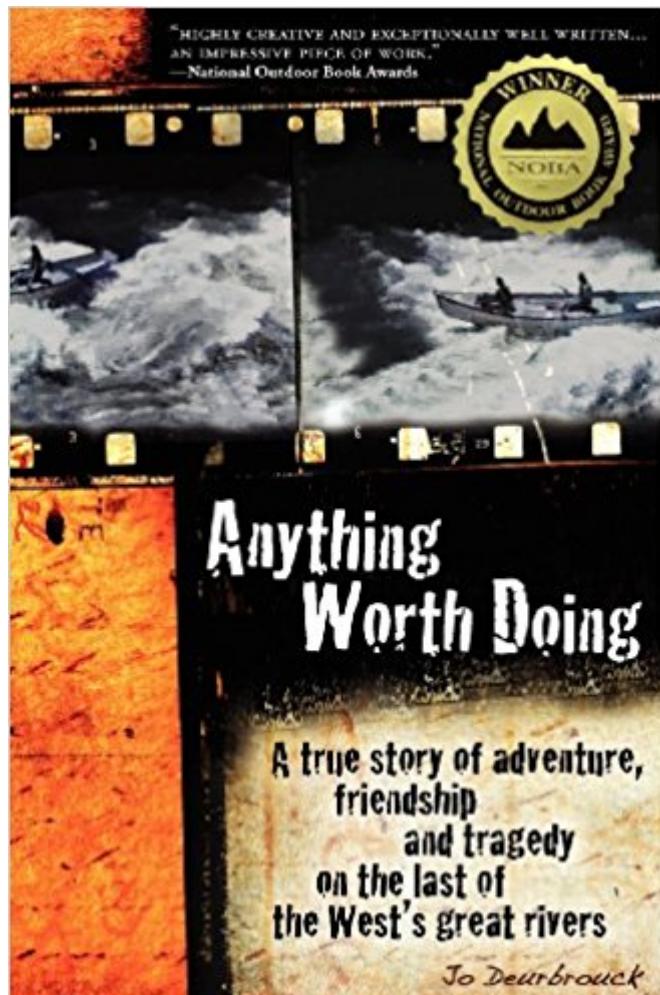


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Anything Worth Doing: A True Story Of Adventure, Friendship And Tragedy On The Last Of The West's Great Rivers



Synopsis

2012 NATIONAL OUTDOOR BOOK AWARD WINNER Anything Worth Doing tells the unforgettable true story of larger-than-life whitewater raft guides Clancy Reece and Jon Barker, two men who share a love of wild rivers and an unbending will to live life on their terms, no matter the cost.Â Clancy's motto, 'Anything worth doing is worth overdoing,' leads them into a decade of beautiful--and beautifully strange--river adventures. Then, on June 8, 1996, in pursuit of a 24-hour speed record they intend to share only with a handful of friends, the men launch Clancy's handmade dory, his proudest possession, onto Idaho's renowned Salmon River at peak flood of an extreme high water year. This time the odds catch up with them.Â With clarity reminiscent of Krakauer's Into the Wild, whitewater veteran Jo Deurbrouck carries us down the West's great rivers and into the hearts, minds and homes of that rare breed for whom security is optional but freedom and passion are not. Anything Worth Doing--taut and efficient, yet rich with insight--is destined to become an adventure classic.

Book Information

Paperback: 216 pages

Publisher: Sundog Book Publishing (August 1, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0985257806

ISBN-13: 978-0985257804

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.5 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (72 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #522,113 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 inÂ Books > Sports & Outdoors > Outdoor Recreation > Rafting #832 inÂ Books > Travel > United States > West > Mountain #1640 inÂ Books > Sports & Outdoors > Water Sports

Customer Reviews

Writing a book with a cast of living characters can be as confounding as navigating the whirling waters of a wild river. At every turn, the author feels the weight of her characters' reactions to how they have been portrayed. Creatively writing about real events is just as confounding as writing about living characters. Just how does one breathe life into the narrative while staying faithful to the facts? The facts themselves drive questions about what is real and what is imagined. Somehow Jo Deurbrouck has successfully mined these treacherous waters with skill and grace in her book

Anything Worth Doing. The book tells a harrowing tale of two men whose friendship is built upon mutual respect, shared values for adventure, and shared love of interacting with moving water. The book is as much about loyalty and kinship as it is about adventure. Both men are driven to reach for stars that seem unreachable. Formerly a professional guide on the Lochsa River in Idaho, Deurbrouck employs her own knowledge about rivers, water, and the people who love rivers to develop her characters and offer insight into why two men would feel compelled to ride the untamed Salmon River at its precise peak, challenging themselves to log as many miles as possible in one uninterrupted 24-hour period. By steering clear of too much jargon, Deurbrouck's book is accessible to any reader, river rat or lay person. It's a page turner to the very end. Thankfully, Anything Worth Doing is not overdone. It's done just right.

I bought this book at a local wine store supporting a local author, not knowing at the time it actually would be good. It sat on my coffee table unread for months until I was on a flight back east sitting next to a young man reading this book with such fierce intensity. When he came up for air as he finished a chapter, I asked him how he liked it. He told me he rarely reads but if all books were this incredible he thought he would start. It so happened when I got back to my Idaho home I was heading on my first river trip of the season, and made sure the first thing I packed in my dry bag was this book and a headlamp for late night reading. This book captured my soul at its opening when I learned the main character lived fifteen miles downriver from where I grew up, in the river town of Orofino. I soon learned, my new book addiction was not unique to myself: two other rafters on our river journey also brought the book and my husband kept stealing my book to read a chapter or two whenever I put it down to stoke the fire. Jo does an amazing job of combining adventure, romance and education of the river with engaging Idaho history. She paints a beautiful picture of small town life and addiction to an outdoor life style. She helps us understand why we are drawn to rivers and why we come back even if the risks seem unimaginable to the average person. She does a remarkable job of bouncing from present day to yesterday without missing a beat and her character development of John and Clancy was so perfect that in the end you felt a personal connection to each of them and their families. Thanks Jo for telling this incredibly important story, sharing Idaho river history with the rest of the world, and thoroughly entertaining me a few nights under the stars between whitewater excitement on my first river trip of the season. I can't wait for your next book.

I am a Salmon River local that knew and still knows many of the people in this book. I've also lived and worked on some of these rivers--mainly the Salmon. The author is amazing at reminding me

just how "larger than life" Clancy really was. It took me back to the memories of good times spent with him. He is still a legend around these parts and Deurbrouck did a great job at gripping the reader and drawing them in to the real dreams and aspirations Reece and Barker shared. Even though we all know the ending before it starts, I found myself getting lost in each step they took along the way. I couldn't put it down until it was finished. It's also a great reminder that there are many more reasons the Salmon is called "the River of No Return". It too is larger and more mysterious than we all know--just like Clancy. Thanks for writing this book and sharing this story with the rest of the world!

"Anything Worth Doing" deserves favorable comparison with books like Jon Krakauer's "Into Thin Air." The prose carries a distinctive, matter of fact journalistic voice tinged with the credibility and closeness of someone who actually knows the subject, not only from firsthand experience as a river-guide but also from exhaustive research."Anything Worth Doing" does things all really good books do:- Its descriptions are brief and powerful enough to put me into the places described.- It made me re-read, and stop reading to consider both the real meaning of the words and the potential meaning of the words and what that potential meaning might tell me about my life.- Its prose was poetic just often enough to make its poetic qualities stand out and be special.- It is emotionally moving."Anything Worth Doing" contained what I thought was a compelling metaphor for life:"It made him feel small. He figured that was the point of big water: It let you feel your insignificance among earth-molding forces, but also reminded you that small as you are, you could grab hold and ride, and that although you never controlled the river, you could control your ride"(68).And the final line in the acknowledgements made me smile a real smile and feel the smile on my inside too.

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