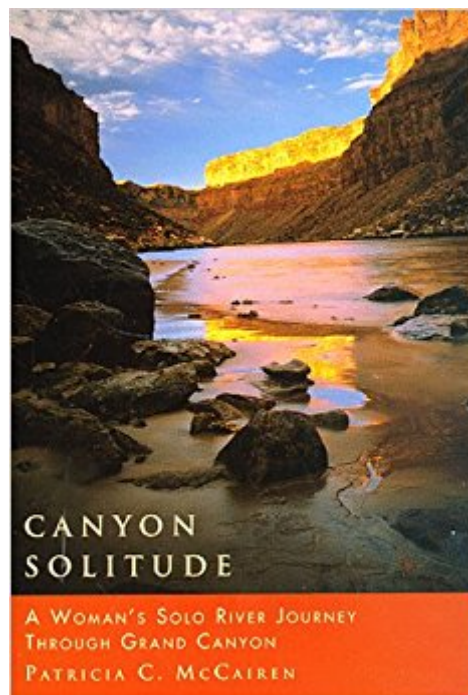




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Canyon Solitude: A Woman's Solo River Journey Through The Grand Canyon (Adventura Books)



Synopsis

"It's well known that Mother River doesn't like a smart aleck," says Patricia McCairen. Accordingly, she plies her oars with reverence and skill on a sometimes hair-raising solo rafting trip along the Colorado River that winds through the stupendous stone valleys of the American Grand Canyon. Like the waters of the Colorado, which change from long, still stretches to boiling white water that barely clothes sharp rocks and hides holes that can suck down a raft, McCairen's moods--and even her name--change as the miles unwind. One moment, she's the cocky, athletic river guide Babe; the next, she's an earthier, more spiritual woman who answers to the name of Patch. Hours later, she seems more vulnerable, less convinced of her strength and joy in the solitude she so zealously courts. Canyon Solitude records these shifts and beautifully limns a journey that tests McCairen's mettle and shows that determination, grit, and the will to spurn conventional rewards offer their own deep satisfactions.

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Customer Reviews

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Navigating the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon is usually challenging or at very least momentous. This honest, firsthand account by McCairen, a veteran rafter on a 25-day solo journey, describes a trip that was the culmination of McCairen's decision to change her life. Her keenly observant eye and finely detailed descriptions re-create the magnificence of the Grand Canyon and the Colorado River in all their danger and beauty. Her trepidation at the outset of the trip and in some of its more alarming moments show the true vulnerability of a woman alone in the wilderness trying to accomplish a "man's" challenge. McCairen is a former city-dweller who fell in love with the Grand Canyon on her first group river trip, and wanted to experience it solo. As the book, and trip, progress, McCairen as writer and subject emerges as an ever more confident woman who discovers that the solitude she has simultaneously craved and feared has diminished as canyon and river sustain her. "Solitude has a sound all its own, a feeling, a special vision. With each stroke on the oars, I draw myself deeper into its realm.... Yes, I'm terribly small and vulnerable, minuscule compared to this deep, green river and the walls growing up around me." McCairen's experience reflects a complex array of emotions, but it is her fear, joy and ultimate elation that come through most vividly. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I am so enjoying this book - half way through so far. As a woman who also enjoys the outdoors, was a river guide, climber and avid trekker I love reading about women who have challenged themselves both physically and mentally and have succeeded in both. And I so relate to the Canyon in ways she describes, having run it myself as part of a private trip quiet a few years ago now. Its a totally awe inspiring place that allows one, if you listen, to find an inner self. I too was changed forever by its spirit and beauty. I found this book to mirror much of my own struggles with living in central society vs in the wilderness. I envy Patricia McCairen for the strength to make the choice she did but I dont regret the choices I made.

amazing courage and risky adventureThis Feat would never be allowed today which makes it a rare

diamond of a travel diary.

Well-written, engaging and thoughtful. Loved it for its putting me on the river but also into the life of an extraordinary woman.

A quick read. Really fed my desire to raft down the Colorado - although I think I would want to portage the rapids! I found the story somewhat slow in places, but attribute this to the fact that it was written by an adventuress, not an accomplished author.

Great book. Interesting adventure. I love women's solo adventures. And this one is a great read. Up there on the best women adventures.

I went rafting down the Grand canyon this summer and wanted a book to keep me inspired. It was great.

Great read

I enjoyed the portions of her stories that dealt with river experiences and less enjoyed the amount of introspection the author shared. As one who has both run the river (with guides) and back packed the canyon I'm left quite impressed with her accomplishment.

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