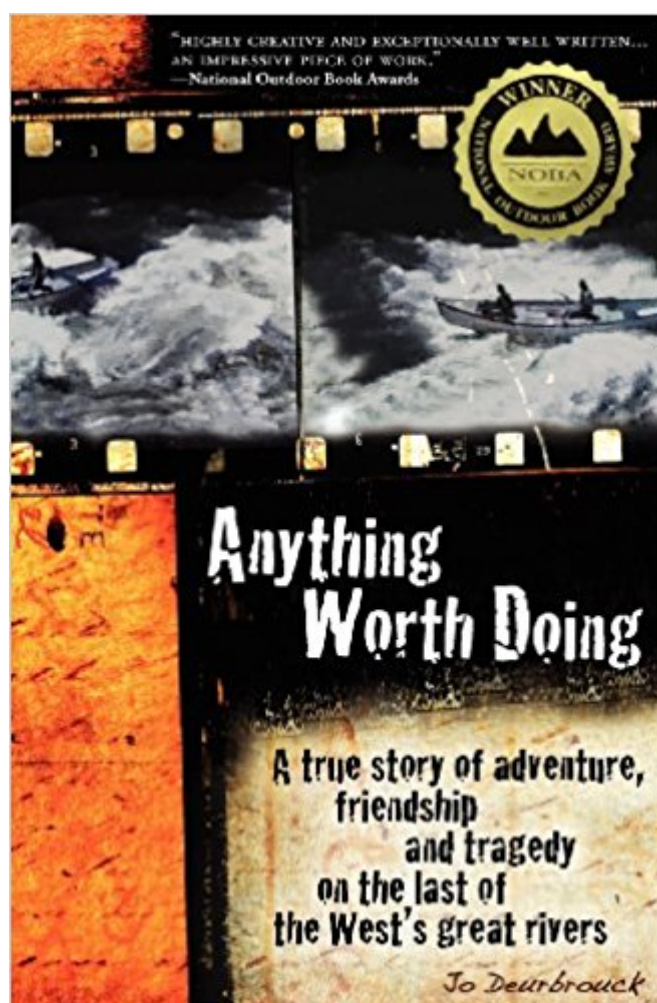


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Anything Worth Doing: A True Story Of Adventure, Friendship And Tragedy On The Last Of The West's Great Rivers



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. 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. 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 stars 77 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #597,596 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #19 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Outdoor Recreation > Rafting #903 in Books > Travel > United States > West > Mountain #1500 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Water Sports

Customer Reviews

"Anything Worth Doing is a true drama whose characters will break your heart with their dreams, courage, vulnerability, and absolute determination to live life on their own terms, no matter the cost."--Kim Barnes, author of *In the Kingdom of Men*"Highly creative and exceptionally well written...an impressive piece of work."--National Outdoor Book Awards"An intricately researched, tension-filled, riveting tale."--Chris Dombrowski, *Missoula Independent*"This unforgettable book...catches, then lodges in the eddy of the heart."--Cort Conley, Idaho Commission on the

Arts"Securing the 2012 National Outdoor Book Award, Deurbrouck has landed herself in good company, alongside such masters of adventure literature as Farley Mowat, Greg Child, Joe Simpson and Henry David Thoreau."--Karina Weatherbee, Summit Daily"The account of Reece's demise is truly terrifying, but *Anything Worth Doing* is ultimately a profile of one of Idaho's last iconoclast boatmen...Reece comes across as bearish and self-reliant, like a landlocked Thor Heyerdahl or a less militant George Heyduke."--Grayson Shaffer, Senior Editor, *Outside Magazine*"[Deurbrouck's] lyrical celebration of the wild power of nature combines with an insightful exploration of what it means to embrace the elemental in a complex world."--John D'Onofrio, *Adventures Northwest*"...as clear-eyed and nonjudgmental a tutorial as I have ever read on how joyful, liberating enthusiasm can spin 180 degrees to debilitating horror and grief."--Michael Lanza, *The Big Outside*Favorite Customer Comments"*Anything Worth Doing* speaks straight to the adventurer's heart in all of us, not as a precautionary tale, but rather as powerful testament to what it means to really live." "This book won the National Outdoor Book Award and I can see why. It's beautifully, and respectfully, written. As another reviewer mentioned, it reminded me of Jon Krakauer's work, both *Into Thin Air* and *Into the Wild*. I would read more from this author." "Everybody will enjoy this classic adventure of two friends on wild Idaho rivers!" "*Anything Worth Doing* deserves favorable comparison with books like Jon Krakauer's *Into Thin Air*." "...Deurbrouck nails everything-rivers (their importance and magic), river people subculture, adventure, risk, life's lessons as taught by the river..." "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..."

As late as the 1930s, the West, with its snowcatching mountain ranges and huge basins, was still a land of mighty rivers. In the Northwest, the Columbia roared through its spring melt season, drawing its icy waters from an entire region. During flood, it replenished sediments, shaping and feeding the land. It flushed salmon and steelhead smolts to the sea by the millions. By late summer, it warmed and subsided to a relative trickle, but even then its waterfalls and rapids were formidable—when they weren't impassable. It took 14 mainstem dams to chain the Columbia, but the job is done: The river's natural rhythms have been erased. It now works 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, supplying power, navigation, irrigation, and flood control. All of the Columbia's significant tributaries are also dammed. But those tributaries have tributaries, and although some of these are dewatered for irrigation and

agricultural runoff makes others smell like chemistry labs, many, above their rendezvous points with modern river management, remain free and wild. Each of these is celebrated and protected by its advocates, but among them, the river at the heart of this book, Idaho's Salmon River, is unique. No other Western river of such length, volume, and gradient survived the 20th century so nearly intact. The Salmon is the last major river that still dances to natural seasonal rhythms, its bed and banks nearly pristine. It's the last river, not just in the West but across the contiguous 48 states, upon which a person can, with skill and courage, float from headwaters to mouth and, over more than 400 miles, imagine himself in a world humans do not control.

Deurbrouck tells a gritty tale of the fantastical ride down a violent flooding river by a group of friends who had all boiled their lives down to the adrenalin of facing rivers at their most dangerous and arbitrary. The author brings you the visceral feel for the life of a river guide, and the nuts and bolts of what a capricious river can do to the novice and the expert. If that was all she did, this would be a nice piece in a host of wilderness magazines. But she also draws out, teases out the details of the major personalities such that although they are never less than passionate, intense, focused zealots, you start to feel the more complex humanity at their core. In the end you understand that whether or not you could ever pare your life down to these rugged basics, it makes sense that these three voyagers could. Deurbrouck's prose is as spare as the people she describes, but she has very nice turns of phrase that flash up in the text like shiny reflections on the rivers she loves. She has left her raw emotion and thoughts in as she describes her process of finding the people and listening to their various versions. This helps the story stay authentic and balanced. I will remember the feel of this book for a long time.

The book is the true story of two rabid (and crazy) whitewater rafters and guides. The first part of the book is a bit slow but once I got into it I couldn't put it down. Even though the outcome at the end of the book is known before you start reading, their rafting exploits were breathtaking. I've rafted down some of the parts of the main Salmon and the Middle Fork and I'm familiar with some of those rapids. I'm really glad I was on a guided trip and the water was nowhere near flood stage. It was scary enough then. It was exciting to read about those particular rapids in a way I hadn't experienced them. The book is well worth reading.

Yesterday afternoon I bought "Anything Worth Doing" and read it until late at night. I picked it up

again at 6 this morning and finished at 8 am. It was a great read and one that I could relate to having done a lot of challenging water travel myself. Deurbrouck writes with not only impressive understanding of white water boating, but she tells the stories of Reece and Barker with empathy and great respect. She doesn't make judgements but lets the story, through her objective narration, speak for itself. She has created an interesting timeline throughout the book by going backwards and forwards several times. It works well and helps build the well thought out ending. I'm sure I'll be reading this book again some day.

I'd very highly recommend this book and give it 5 stars. It captures the essence of the persona of the extreme river warriors, it permits you to understand what is happening in those raging torrents which fly by you in a flash, so fast that they evaporate from your consciousness. It's also a work of literary art; most beautifully and exquisitely written by a supremo, both on the river as a guide and at her keyboard. Buy it, read it.

"Anything Worth Doing" is one of those tales that is as large as the characters contained within. It is one of those books that spins a tale of those characters in an insightful, compelling manner. I was unable to put the book down, but it is also one those books you do not want to end. I found myself rereading certain excerpts and I expect to revisit sections of this book again. If you have ever run a river or seek any type of outdoor adventure this is a must read. Read Jo Deurbouck's book, you will thoroughly enjoy it.

This is a story, new to me. I was a friend of Twerp Reese and surprised and saddened to hear of his death. He was amazing, that country (where I grew up is amazing), there are mentions of other friends so for me this book is personal! And a very good read.

Read this after getting back from an OARS trip on the Salmon river and it was wonderful to bring me back to that vacation. Well written and makes feel like you are there on the river. Would recommend to anyone who likes outdoorsy adventure stories!

This book tells a unique story at a good pace, nicely balancing the characters backstory with their passions. I'm always amazed by people that march to the beat of their own drum and this book details the lives of a few really interesting free spirits. I usually take a few weeks to read a book, however I read this book every free moment until I finished it in three days.

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