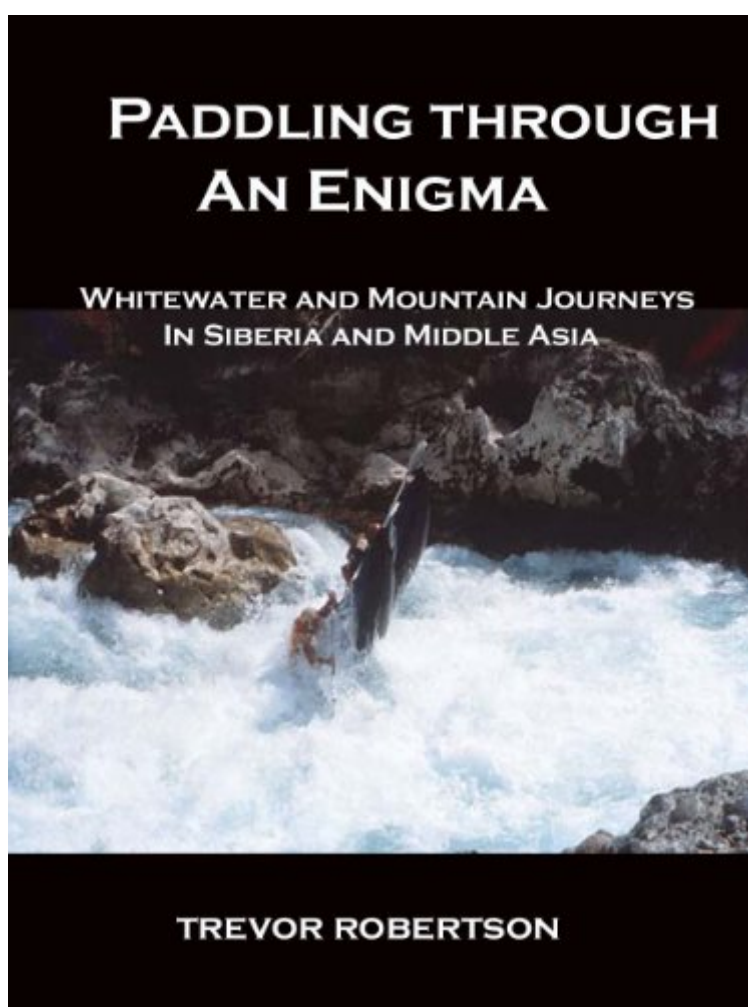


The book was found

Paddling Through An Enigma: Whitewater And Mountain Journeys In Siberia And Middle Asia



Synopsis

This is a narrative of three whitewater kayaking and mountain trekking trips to Siberia and Central Asia. In 1993, not long after the Iron Curtain rose, the author went to Russia and the countries of the former Soviet Central Asia on a white water kayaking expedition. The exciting white water and the stark beauty of these countries captivated him and their vivid, turbulent, and often tragic history intrigued him. That history continued to evolve while he was there, as people struggled to adapt to new regimes. In 1997, he returned to Kirghizia and Kazakhstan on a similar trip and in 2,000 he went to Tuva, a semi-autonomous republic in southern Siberia. The narrative of the physical adventure is interwoven with an account of the author's exploration of Russian and Central Asian history and culture. Unwrapping the enigma of Russia leads to both conflict and joy as the Australian adventurers engage with the different approaches and attitudes of their Russian comrades.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I admit, I am an avid whitewater kayaking fan. I was stoked to see another kayaking book. I guess I have been spoiled with Doug Ammons, Tao Berman, and Leland Davis' books. Descriptions aren't very deep "kayaking-wise", and it dragged along, got boring and even tedious. (I hate to admit it.)

His GF came along, and the details of their relationship scuffles added zero to the experience. I wanted either more about the kayaking, or the locals they encountered along the way... My threshold for kayaking books is lower than other types of books - afterall, they are dirtbags (term of endearment for those who live to boat). If I didn't have another book to read on the beach, I wouldn't have finished it. I kept hoping it would get better. :-/

We met Trevor and Jackie while they were on yet another adventure hiking in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California. They were an interesting pair and Trevor always seemed to have an amused knowing that was just beyond our grasp. His writing took us beyond that twinkle in his eye to 3 grand adventures kayaking and hiking in Russia. We learned what excited, amused and interested Trevor and we were not disappointed. Beyond the excitement of the outdoor adventure was a wealth of interesting historical information about some of the places he visited. His excitement to learn more about old and new Russia was infectious and we enjoyed these parts as much as the hiking and kayaking narratives. Trevor's self deprecating manner and humor come through well in this story.

This is an account of various kayaking expeditions in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Siberia. If you have any interest in kayaking or remote places you should enjoy it. You will also learn of Russian history, characters and culture. I found it difficult to keep track of who all the various people were.

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