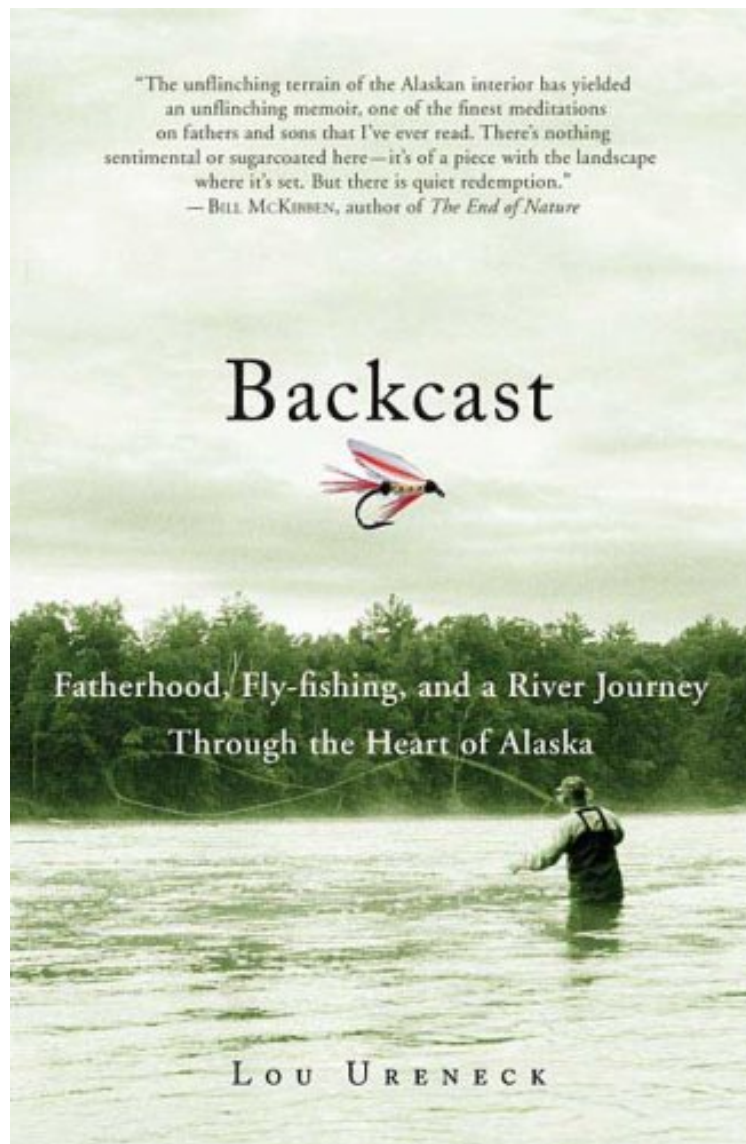


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Backcast: Fatherhood, Fly-fishing, and a River Journey Through the Heart of Alaska

Lou Ureneck

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Lou Ureneck : Backcast: Fatherhood, Fly-fishing, and a River Journey Through the Heart of Alaska before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Backcast: Fatherhood, Fly-fishing, and a River Journey Through the Heart of Alaska:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Not what I expected By BigCreekI expected a book recounting about

re-bonding on a fishing trip between a father and son, each of whom had distanced themselves from the other. Instead, it is partly about a poorly planned fishing trip, and mostly about the authors lousy childhood and his painful divorce. Nether of these seems to lend much to the rest of the book, which could not have been covered in a short chapter. Even the trip itself is quite odd, with the son being as much of a jerk as he thinks his father is. It ends with no real clue as to whether this trip was even a success from a bonding and mending standpoint. I've read probably 100 fishing books, and I'd rate this in the bottom 20%, and it is not written as it is advertised. At best, this is a library read....don't fork over any cash. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great Story of Life By Charles R. Anderson I truly enjoyed this book, since it was real, involved father son relationships, and included fishing in Alaska. As a father of 4 sons, I related reasonably well to the struggles the father and son encountered during this trip. I have been to Alaska on a similar trip with both friends and a son and the descriptions of the float and wildlife were very accurate. I thought the hostility of the son toward his father, who was the leader of the trip, cook, fishing guide, fly tier and financier was a little overdone. Having never been through a divorce, maybe I don't relate to this part of the relationship. The father did more than his share to bridge the gap with what appeared to be little or no effort or reciprocity by the son. They had spent many hours together before the trip, so this seemed a little over done. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Life Is A Funny Trip, But Losing Your Gun In Bear Country Is Not By Dr. Jones This book is a book that deals with fly fishing, but does not fit into any typical strain of the fly fishing genre of literature. It is a book that offers up fly fishing as a window into one's life, but it does not contain any whoring around, putting off work, or drinking. Rather, it uses a fishing trip to recount one man's efforts to reconcile his son to the choices that the father has made in the then recent past. So you are not exposed to a great deal of insight into fly fishing in Alaska, but you are treated to the meaning that fly fishing occupied in this one man's life. All in all, a very good book about how fly fishing made a broken man and strained relationship much better.

While father and son fishing trips can be the stuff of American legend, they can also turn out to be the stuff of anger, love and self-discovery. In his memoir of a fishing trip through the Alaskan wilderness, Lou Ureneck brings to life the struggle to reclaim the trust of his teenage son, Adam, following his divorce. Told against the backdrop of the Alaskan wilds, *Backcast* is the remembrance of a fishing trip that carried a father and son from the mountains of Alaska to the Bering Sea. Along the way, nature transforms from friend into foe, and their struggles are played out against the poignant emotional battle raging between the two as they descend the river headed toward confrontation. On their journey, the two encounter nature's dangers -- bears, violent river currents and ruthless, punishing weather -- as well as the hurts that exist between them, the reasons for divorce, the absence of a father and the withheld love of a son. Dipping his hand into the river of his own life, Ureneck recounts his own fatherless childhood, the influence of his mother's boyfriend who helped him learn to fish, and the realization that he himself had done the one thing he always promised himself he would not do: He ended his marriage in divorce. Part adventure story, part reconciliation with life's unexpected turns, and part commentary on the healing power of nature, "*Backcast*" explores the world of a man confronted by the hard choices divorce can bring to create a moving meditation on fatherhood.

"Lou Ureneck is a master craftsman, and in "*Backcast*" he has meticulously constructed a story that's lasting and splendid to behold. You need not love fishing or the outdoors to enjoy this redemptive and intensely observed journey of self-discovery."--Boston Globe