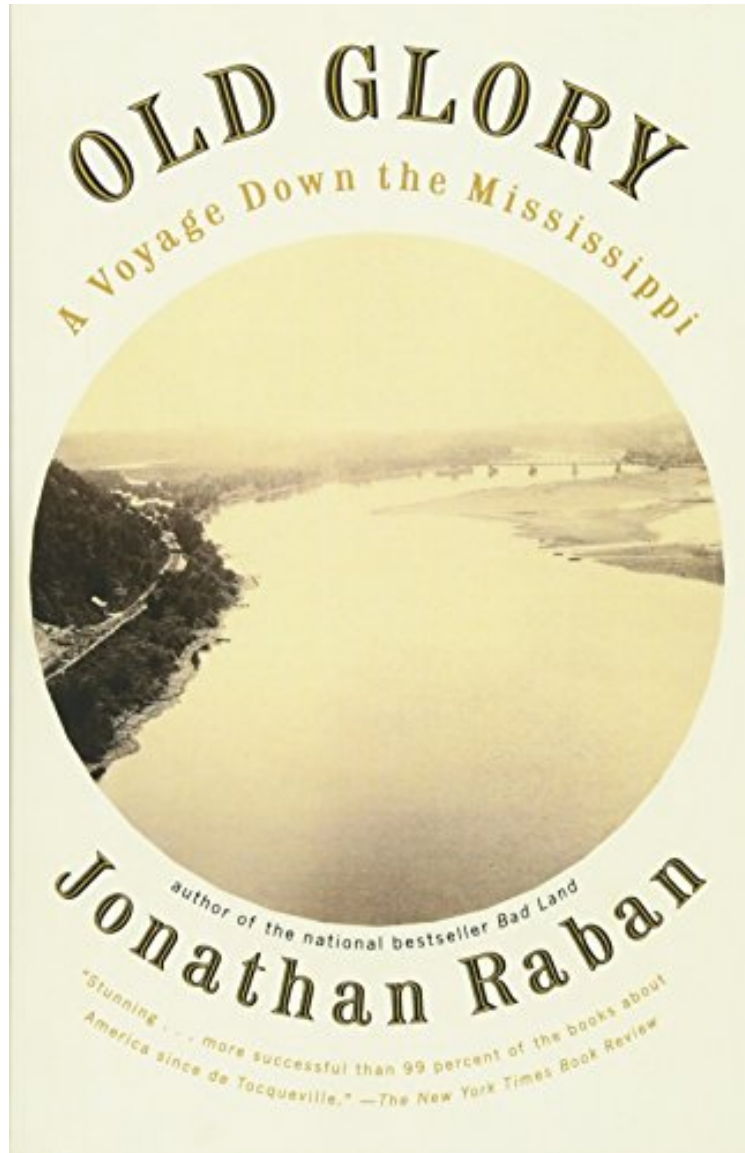


(Free) Old Glory : A Voyage Down the Mississippi

Old Glory : A Voyage Down the Mississippi

Jonathan Raban

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Jonathan Raban : Old Glory : A Voyage Down the Mississippi before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Old Glory : A Voyage Down the Mississippi:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I like everything Raban writes By Wayne J. Anderson I like everything Raban writes, especially "Passage to Juneau". One of the better books I have ever read on the Inside Passage. Raban has a great way with words. I recently did a river trip in a friends yacht and had hoped for more detailed information on the river. Old Glory talks mostly about the people he meets on his voyage and while

interesting I found it somewhat depressing to read about the people he met along the way. I still found it interesting, just not as great as "Passage to Juneau", which I thought outstanding.https://www..com/Passage-Juneau-Sea-Its-Meanings/dp/0679776141/ref=sr_1_1?s=booksie=UTF8qid=1468878170sr=1-1keywords=passage+to+juneau1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good book..But....By HeartlandI enjoyed this book a lot. I am a midwesterner and have always liked river towns and this book takes you there. Also, I know some of this country first hand...the northern portions especially. And this book takes you there and one feels that one is on the river with him... and learning much about it all the way.However, the book is almost spoiled by the author's very-English and bitterly anti-American mentality. He seems obsessed with portraying Americans as racist. (Would he point out tribal flaws of the English or other peoples?) Perhaps the real problem is that he does not seem to be the happiest person.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A moody, swilling Englishman musing on a moody riverBy Fire BoyThe vision and the voyage of the author intrigued me geographically and culturally. Written by an unhappy man and who, unfortunately, seeks out and illuminates the darker sides of other unhappy people to focus upon their bigoted worldviews. The writing was interesting as his consistency in viewing peoples' darker sides indicated an undercurrent of American xenophobia most likely amplified by his own fears of being an alien in America.I believe, he now lives in Seattle. The weather should perfectly fit his mood.I am currently reading "Hunting Mr. Heartbreak," by Raban (you really should read this one). That would be my fifth book that he has written. He may be an alien, but he is a most reflective writer that describes personal and American issues with insight, humor and unabashed candor.

The author of *Bad Land* realizes a lifelong dream as he navigates the waters of the Mississippi River in a spartan sixteen-foot motorboat, producing yet another masterpiece of contemporary American travel writing. In the course of his voyage, Raban records the mercurial caprices of the river and the astonishingly varied lives of the people who live along its banks. Whether he is fishing for walleye or hunting coon, discussing theology in Prairie Du Chien or race relations in Memphis, he is an expert observer of the heartyland's estrangement from America's capitals of power and culture, and its helpless nostalgia for its lost past. Witty, elegaic, and magnificently erudite, *Old Glory* is as filled with strong currents as the Mississippi itself.

.com "It is as big and depthless as the sky itself. You can see the curve of the earth on its surface as it stretches away for miles to the far shore." So begins *Old Glory*, in which Jonathan Raban recounts his eye-opening descent of the Mississippi River in a 16-foot aluminum motorboat. As the English author explains, his obsession with the subject began with *Huckleberry Finn*, which he first read as a 7-year-old. And in fact, his opening sentences refer as much to the imaginary river as to the real one, which turns out to be less bucolic than Raban expected. Three miles upstream from Oquawka, Illinois, he's nearly pulverized by a towboat. Later on, the intrepid voyager only just manages to escape a treacherous whirlpool near St. Louis, calming himself afterwards with a generous dose of tobacco and Valium. True, when Raban isn't cheating death he encounters some stunning terrain, which he describes in no-less-stunning prose. Yet *Old Glory* is much, much more than a travelogue. It is also a brilliant interrogation of the American psyche, in the tradition of De Tocqueville and Crevecoeur. And ultimately, Raban tells us a great deal about the very phenomenon of travel, with all its rigors and rewards, and its peculiar, metaphysical dislocations: "Riding the river, I had seen myself as a sincere traveler, thinking of my voyage not as a holiday but as a scale model of a life. It was different from life in one essential: I would survive it to give an account of its end."From the Inside FlapThe author of *Bad Land* realizes a lifelong dream as he navigates the waters of the Mississippi River in a spartan sixteen-foot motorboat, producing yet another masterpiece of contemporary American travel writing. In the course of his voyage, Raban records the mercurial caprices of the river and the astonishingly varied lives of the people who live along its banks. Whether he is fishing for walleye or hunting coon, discussing theology in Prairie Du Chien or race relations in Memphis, he is an expert observer of the heartyland's estrangement from America's capitals of power and culture, and its helpless nostalgia for its lost past. Witty, elegaic, and magnificently erudite, *Old Glory* is as filled with strong currents as the Mississippi itself.From the Back Cover"Stunning . . . more successful than 99 percent of the books about America since de Tocqueville." --The New York Times Book "Wonderful. . . Mr. Raban is excellent company. He is a popcorn-popper of opinions." --The New York Times"Vividly captures the texture of small-town everyday life. . . . *Old Glory* has given us a fresh portrait of ourselves." --Newsweek