

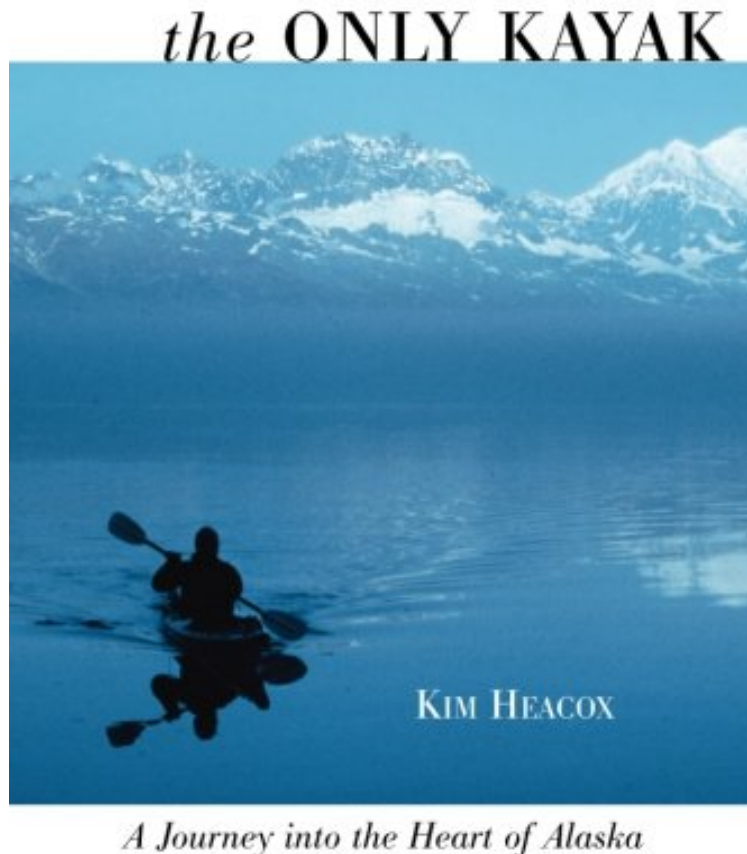
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Only Kayak: A Journey Into The Heart Of Alaska

Kim Heacox

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"A tender chronicle of a miracle in process . . ." —Kirkus Reviews



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Kim Heacox : Only Kayak: A Journey Into The Heart Of Alaska before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Only Kayak: A Journey Into The Heart Of Alaska:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Read this book!!!By hared23The Only Kayak is a beautiful journey of a book. I'd recommend it to anybody, and especially anyone who's ever been or dreamed of going to Alaska.This book is full of soul and insight, the right balance of intellect and emotion. Kim Heacox is a masterful writer. You won't be disappointed.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Coming of age in AlaskaBy KSBKim Heacox writes a thought-provoking book about environmental issues affecting mostly Glacier Bay, Alaska using an eclectic

mixture of personal stories, quotes from literature (such as from "The Great Gatsby"), and discussion of environmental issues to weave a story about Alaska. How does one share the wonder of a place such as Alaska without inundating it with tourists? Not everyone can kayak through the wildness. But if only those fit enough to hike and kayak in a remote place such as Alaska can enjoy its beauty, who will speak to protect it from commercial exploitation? The personal stories and photos keep this from being just another ecologic treatise. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommend By MT North Star My first book by this author....very well written. I may get other books in the future. Sure to please the most discriminating readers

Finalist for the 2006 Pen Center Usa Western award in creative nonfiction.

From Publishers Weekly
Writer and photographer Heacox delivers a genuine, deeply moving account of the past 25 years he has spent living in Glacier Bay, Alaska, "the last wild shore, nine hundred miles north of Seattle and nine hundred years in the past." This work's title comes from the first kayaking trip Heacox took there in 1979. As he explored the bay with a friend, they found themselves the sole kayak in that body of water, "alone, and escaped, left to wonder how long it could last, this wildness and grace." Heacox's ability to use this tension between the beauty of the Alaskan wilderness and the creeping encroachment of modern life is the thread that unites his varied observations, and it's what gives the book its uniqueness and keeps it from being another pale imitation of *Coming into the Country*, John McPhee's late-1970s classic on Alaska. Heacox (An American Idea; Shackleton; etc.) deftly renders highly personal accounts of life with his wife and constant companion especially a horrific account of her near-death from hypothermia in a winter storm and the development of his friendship with Michio Hoshino, who became a famed photographer of bears before an untimely death. He also offers a fascinating look at his own development as a conservationist. The combination of these various elements makes for a charming reverie on Alaska's past and a thoughtful look at its future. Map. (May) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.
From Booklist
One hundred years after naturalist John Muir made his first trip to Alaska, National Park Service employee Heacox is paddling the waters of Glacier Bay with Richard Steele, a fellow summer recruit. The year is 1979, and their goal is to visit untrammeled wilderness, and to be the only kayak in the bay. Although some 25 years have passed since that summer, Heacox is still enamored of Alaska, and the valuable friendships he made there. He is an intrepid spirit well suited to Alaskan life, and has little patience for those who don't meet his standards. "Make access easy, and a place dies," is his motto, and therein lies the paradox that Heacox tries to resolve in this book. He knows that cruise ships are damaging to the bay's ecosystem, for example, yet he also realizes that it would be nearly impossible for the elderly visitors to enjoy the coastline by kayak as he does. As he wrestles with such conundrums, Heacox creates a nicely balanced environmental portrait of Alaska's ice-cut coast. Rebecca Maksiel
Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved. "[A] tender chronicle of a miracle in process, with glints of its rarity thrown by the handful from these pages."--Kirkus s
"Writer and photographer Heacox delivers a genuine, deeply moving account of the past twenty-five years he has spent living in Glacier Bay, Alaska."--Publishers Weekly
"Make access easy, and a place dies,' is his motto, and therein lies the paradox that Heacox tries to resolve in this book. . . . As he wrestles with such conundrums, Heacox creates a nicely balanced environmental portrait of Alaska's ice-cut coast."--Booklist