

THE MISADVENTURES OF A CROSS-AMERICA KAYAKER

HANK LANDAU

DESCRIPTION

The Misadventures of a Cross-America Kayaker is the story of an old man on what would probably be his final adventure. Over a span of seven years, Hank Landau paddled and portaged over 4,700 miles on nineteen waterways and rivers, six of them going upstream. He touched seventeen states and traversed thirty-one dams along a route that started at the Pacific Ocean and ended at the Atlantic.

Alone almost the entire trip, and always under his own power, age and injuries took their toll. Paddling over a diversion dam, run-ins with a charging alligator and a rattlesnake that pursued his kayak, almost being run down by tows and barges, being swept out to sea at an inlet, capsizing in rapids, and becoming lost in a swamp as fire ants invaded his cockpit were some of the perilous, life-threatening, and sometimes humorous misadventures he encountered along the way.

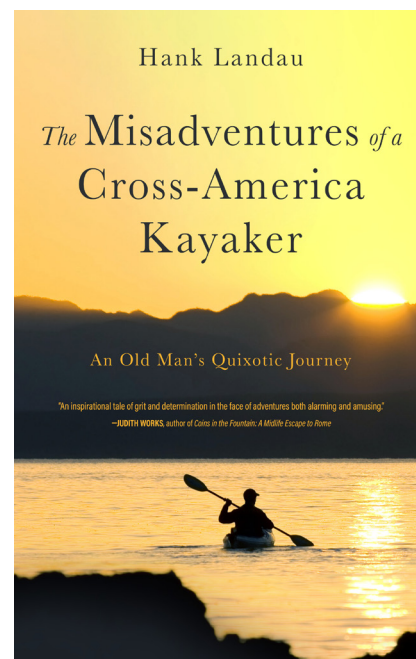
He also had ample time to reflect on the accomplishments of early explorers, including those of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, whose route he followed west of the Tennessee River. Not a day went by that he didn't reflect on the beneficial and detrimental impacts civilization has brought to our rivers and waterways and to the people who now live and once lived along their shores. This is their story, and your story, as well as his.

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Seniors will find inspiration.
- "Misadventures" is educational and entertaining: there is humor, even in perilous events.
- Even experienced paddlers will learn something from the author's misadventures.
- Learning from history leads to learning about yourself and how our culture has changed.
- Conquering the west led to the destruction of Native American culture.
- Conquering the river sometimes destroys the river.
- Maps and photos accompany the text.
- A daily log is available on the author's website: <http://www.hlandau.com/>
- This book has a large and ready audience of paddlers, seniors, active and armchair adventurers and those who want to be entertained as they learn about human powered river travel, American history and ecology.

AUDIENCE

- Kayakers, canoeists and paddleboarders
- Seniors who will see this trip, or one somewhat less ambitious, as something to add to their list of life activities. Those who are no longer able to engage in highly demanding activities may still find inspiration to step outside their comfort zone
- Those interested in the history of the Lewis and Clark expedition, development along our rivers and waterways, and commensurate destruction of Native American culture
- Technically oriented readers interested in learning about unusual dams, waterways and bridges, and those who place high importance on the environment
- Outdoor adventurers and armchair adventurers
- Native Americans



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MARKETING

- Based on the excellent coverage the press has given to the author's voyage, his book is likely to be publicized by them. The press has referred to it as epic and courageous.
- The author has given talks for the Northwest Paddling Festival, the Mobile Bay Canoe and Kayak Club, the Washington Paddle Trails Association and the Washington Kayak Club. He plans to apply to speak at the annual Florida Paddle Trails Association meeting and gave a talk at the NW Hydrology Symposium in May 2022.
- The author is a member of the Missouri River Paddlers, a Facebook group with more than 2,000 members. This group has reported on his trip and is likely to provide favorable coverage.
- The author's name, and the name of the company he founded (Landau Associates) is fairly well known in western Washington. As an alumna of the USCGA, he will place an advertisement in the USCGA Alumni Association Bulletin promoting his book.
- The author will continue his talks in the greater Seattle area and will further develop on his Facebook page and other social media.
- He will hand deliver copies of the book to historical centers, Native American gift shops, book stores and free copies to libraries along the route the author paddled and to people who helped him. The outlets will include the L&C N.H.P. Interpretive Center, Fort Clatsop and Fort Vancouver, Washington; Oregon Trail Museum, Oregon; Nez Perce Visitor Center, Idaho; Great Falls Visitor Center, Museum of the Plains Indian, Fort Benton, Fort Peck and Fort Union, Montana; Fort Buford S.H.S, Three Tribes Museum, Fort Mandan S.H.S & Fort Abraham Lincoln, North Dakota; Lower Brule (Sioux) Casino and Store, L&C Visitor Center (Chamberlain) South Dakota; Native American Heritage Museum, Kansas; L&C Visitor Center (St. Charles), St. Louis Gateway Arch, Missouri, Big Lagoon State Park Visitors Center, Apalachicola River Keepers, the Econfina Lodge, Suwannee River State Park Visitor Center and Suwannee River Canoe Outpost.
- The author will donate all royalties to Native American not-for profit organizations. He anticipates that many Native American bookstores and Lewis and Clark historical centers will carry the book and that it will receive favorable coverage in Native American publications.

AUTHOR BIO



After spending his youth messing about in canoes and rowboats, Hank Landau attended the US Coast Guard Academy and served as an officer in the US Army during the Vietnam War. His post-military professional career includes a PhD in civil/environmental engineering, forty years of consulting and teaching, and volunteer work as chair of a Washington State science advisory board and in groups promoting human rights and the environment.

Hank has given many talks about his voyage and has been featured in five newspaper articles. He speaks and writes about social justice and climate change and has served numerous times as an expert witness on environmental matters.

Hank and his wife live in the Pacific Northwest. They have three adult children and five grandchildren.