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Home

The Story of Doctor Dolittle

The Plague Dogs

The Art of Racing in the Rain

The Complete Tales

The Hobbit

Mossflower

The Neverending Story

Fell

The Master and Margarita

Prince Caspian

The Horse and His Boy

The Animals of Farthing Wood

Felidae

The Complete Fairy Tales

The Amber Spyglass

Silverwing

Posted on 04 December 2019 By John Wesley Powell

(DOWNLOAD EPUB) ? Canyons of the Colorado ? MOBI eBook or Kindle ePUB

free

The Chasm of the Colorado 1873 74 by Thomas Moran National Portrait Gallery, Washington, DC Page 328 my book Years later I visited the same spot with my friend Thomas Moran From this world of wonder he selected a section which was the most interesting to him and painted it That painting, known as The Chasm of the Colorado If anyone will look upon that picture, and then realize that it was but a small part of the landscape before us The landscape is too vast, too complex, too grand for verbal description. With all due respect to the very intrepid explorer, John Wesley Powell, this record of his travels is on the dry side it is devoid of emotion and introspection. There are a few pages that express exhilaration on what must have been a tremendous passage through these canyons I have visited the southwest U.S and the Grand Canyon, and can vouch for the overwhelming and staggering beauty of the land The diversity and vastness of the landscape can literally knock the wind out of you This narrative may be of interest to one who is intimately familiar with the landscape and the Grand Canyon basin The first part of the book 100 pages is devoted to geographical descriptions The second part 200 pages is the Grand Canyon expedition a significant portion of what he traversed has since been radically modified by Glen Canyon Dam How much has the flora and fauna changed The last part is a trip, taken at a later date, is to areas surrounding the Grand Canyon. There are many encounters with different tribes John Wesley Powell outlines some of the rituals performed So the book also has an anthropological slant to it Ancient ruins were often sited Likely these ruins were pilfered over the years so now hardly exist Even though the book is almost 400 pages, half is taken up by sketches and reproduction of photos in my Penguin edition Many are wonderful But absolutely no credit is given Who made the sketches, who took the photos And sometimes these illustrations have absolutely nothing to do with the surrounding text Philadelphia Museum of Art Grand Canyon of the Colorado River by Thomas Moran Pretty great The whole thing is good as an adventure story, as history, as a look at the geography and people of the Grand Canyon and environs circa 1870 The last chapter, ostensibly on the geology of the Grand Canyon, but also a poetic reminiscence by a one armed Civil War veteran about the place he loved than any other, is worth it on its own I doubt there s another geological treatise quite like it. I should add that the illustrations photographs, drawings, and woodcuts dating from the 1800s are fantastic There must be over a hundred of them, depicting the landscapes, the geology, the native people, their homes, and their crafts.



PENGUIN  CLASSICS

JOHN WESLEY POWELL

*The Exploration of the Colorado River
and Its Canyons*

Introduction by WALLACE STEGNER

I read this because I was planning a trip down the Colorado, and it was worth reading to learn about Wesley's expedition. This was the first group of white people to explore this territory and it was such a dangerous trip. So for those planning to do the Grand Canyon, I recommend it. But his writing style is so ponderous everything is in the passive voice that I can't really recommend it just for reading if you are not planning to go there, unless you are into the exploration genre. While reading this epic adventure, you are forced to remind yourself that John Wesley Powell had lost his right arm at the Battle of Shiloh. You have to keep reminding yourself, because I believe that he only references the fact once or twice, as he's scrambling up sheer rock faces, and frantically paddling to keep his small boat free of boulders and cliff walls as it's careening through rapids. The entire mad expedition, to map the unnavigable Green River to its confluence with the Grand River, which form the even unnavigable Colorado River, was made with no financial incentive, and was virtually unsubsidized. It was made simply to acquire knowledge of the region's geography. I had a few problems with this edition. The first problem is the book's first hundred pages, in which Powell gives an overview of the geography, ethnography, and archaeology of the Colorado River Valley. He should have had an editor. He jumps all over the place, up and down the river, from subject to subject. For a while you try to reread passages, then discover you're becoming motion sick, and just decide to put your head down and work through it, letting all of the facts wash over you but at that, it's still a struggle. The book is lavishly illustrated, mostly with prints, but the illustrations are rarely congruent with the text you are reading, so they mainly serve as a distraction. And surely somebody at Penguin could have thought to append a couple of maps to this book. All in all, even with these minor annoyances, this is a journey I would recommend anybody to take. Unlike the actual boat journey, which you'd have to be mental to take. ([DOWNLOAD EPUB](#)) ? Canyons of the Colorado ? One Of The Great Works Of American Exploration Literature, This Account Of A Scientific Expedition Forced To Survive Famine, Attacks, Mutiny, And Some Of The Most Dangerous Rapids Known To Man Remains As Fresh And Exciting Today As It Was In The Exploration Of The Colorado River And Its Canyons , Recently Ranked Number Four On Adventure Magazine S List Of Top Classics, Is Legendary Pioneer John Wesley Powell S First Person Account Of His Crew S Unprecedented Odyssey Along The Green And Colorado Rivers And Through The Grand Canyon A Bold Foray Into The Heart Of The American West S Final Frontier, The Expedition Was Achieved Without Benefit Of Modern River Running Equipment, Supplies, Or A Firm Sense Of The Region S Perilous Topography And The Attitudes Of The Native Inhabitants Towards Whites For Than Seventy Years, Penguin Has Been The Leading Publisher Of Classic Literature In The English Speaking World With Than , Titles, Penguin Classics Represents A Global Bookshelf Of The Best Works Throughout History And Across Genres And Disciplines Readers Trust The Series To Provide Authoritative Texts Enhanced By Introductions And Notes By Distinguished Scholars And Contemporary Authors, As Well As Up To Date Translations By Award

Winning Translators I'm only reviewing it as an audiobook. The story was very interesting but I couldn't get past the terrible narration. Unfortunate because it's a great story. There is a reason this book is classic of natural history. I didn't think I was going to like it though. This book was written under a direct order from Congress that threatened to pull J.W. Powell's funding if he did not write a book detailing for the general public the history of this historic trip to map for the first time, the course of the Green and Colorado Rivers and the Grand Canyon. The result of that direct order from Congress is *The Exploration of the Colorado River and Its Canyons*, written by John Wesley Powell, a maimed Civil War veteran and geologist whose primary task in exploring the Grand Canyon and running the Green and Colorado rivers was scientific in nature. His plan was to map the canyon, the last unmapped portion of the contiguous US at the time, and take readings of canyon depth, rock type, etc. There were some portions of the book that are dry in that you get his descriptions of the rocks themselves and the height of the walls, the color and type of rock, and so on, but this being the Grand Canyon, even the scientist is moved by the sheer beauty of the canyon. He is frightened by the seemingly never-ending rapids. He has no idea if there is a major, non-navigable waterfall around the next bend. He is concerned for the safety and the welfare of his men, and he is heartbroken when three of his men abandon the expedition and are never seen again. He is mystified by many aspects of Native American culture and he is awed by their knowledge of the details of the canyon topography, their tracking, their ability to procure food. He is fascinated by their religion and he learns as much of their language as possible. This book gets a 5 stars because if you want to plop yourself into the world of the Wild West and into the Grand Canyon in 1869, there is no better portal into that world than this book. Yes, it is true that there are a lot of readings from various devices used for measurements, but the prose is actually excellent in the parts where you are getting the author's thoughts, and it is a treasure to all of us that he shares those thoughts with the readers. If you are interested in the geology, ethnology, and exploration of the American West, you'll enjoy this book by the one-armed Civil War veteran John Wesley Powell. What I found particularly amazing was J.W.P.'s detailed geologic explanations in the first few sections. It shows what a memory the guy had as well as his ability to take great field notes despite the growling stomach and constant threat of death. If you don't care at all about rock formations, then skip the section on geology and enjoy the adventure story and history lesson that follows. It's well worth it. My only gripe is I wish he would have spent a few sentences on his travel companions. This book, published in 1875, is the travel journal of John Wesley Powell, a professor of geology at a small college in Illinois. It tells his story of two trips through the canyons of Colorado River in the 1860s and 1870s. It is no literary masterpiece but Powell does rise to feats of descriptive beauty from time to time as he relates the adventures of his 9-person party boating down the Colorado. The man had uncommon stamina and courage. A Civil War veteran whose arm was amputated after a battle wound, he pushed, pulled, rowed and climbed his way down a viscerously dangerous

river valley at a time when adventure gear was primitive to say the least I bought the book at a gift shop near Bryce Canyon Utah during a trip through some the National Parks I had walked along the south rim of the Grand Canyon in Arizona rocks were on my mind and this book seemed to offer a unique view of the geologic history of what I was seeing daily during drives and hikes Powell vividly describes the country he explored and the hardships and perils his team faced He records a few fascinating and largely sympathetic for a white man of his time visits with the native people of the area Considering the river stretches he ran in his wooden row boats, we are lucky he lived to tell the tale there are several incidents along the trail where he could easily have died Here is one lovely passage that struck me as a glimpse of a lost time conveying a sentiment close to what I have heard some First Nations people say about the land Powell has climbed up the canyon into a valley running into it The little valleys above are beautiful parks between the parks are stately pine forests, half hiding ledges of red sandstone Mule deer and elk abound, grizzly bears, too, are abundant and here wildcats, wolverines and mountain lions are at home The forest isles are filled with the music of birds and the parks are decked with flowers Noisy brooks meander through them ledges of moss covered rocks are seen and gleaming in the distance are the snow fields and the mountain tops are away in the clouds You can almost feel a breeze on your face and smell the pines This is not a book with a compelling plot that demands attention Rather, it feels natural to dip into a few days of travel, put the book down and come back later to pick up the thread of the tale I am not sorry I read the book but it was a bit slow and repetitive at times Not for everyone. One armed Civil War veteran and geographer scientist anthropologist floats the heretofore unexplored and unmapped canyons of the Colorado Green Rivers on wooden boats in 1869 There is adventure galore here, although it is sometimes understated canyons roaring with spring runoff, the mammoth rapids of a truly untamed river, flash floods, the specter of starvation, and the constant fear about what might be found around the next bend of the canyon. Descriptions of the scenery and overall lay of the land are unbelievably accurate and reveal Powell's attention to detail and grasp of the geologic process The book starts with a few chapters explaining the geography of the ENTIRE Colorado Green River watershed, from the mountains of Wyoming and Colorado all the way down to Mexico encompassing lands of 7 states These descriptions are fascinating and detailed, and amazing considering the fact that Powell had no access to satellite images, good photos or even maps of much of that land, yet he lays it all out accurately. Chapters at the end detail additional explorations of the region a year later and offer first hand accounts of the Ute, Hopi, Zuni and other tribes again, very detailed source material offered up by someone who is paying close attention to it all. If you've spent time in the southwest, and especially if you know a bit of geology, this book is amazing If not, then this book will paint a good picture for you but will, at times, probably be a bit hard to follow, although the illustrations are helpful.

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