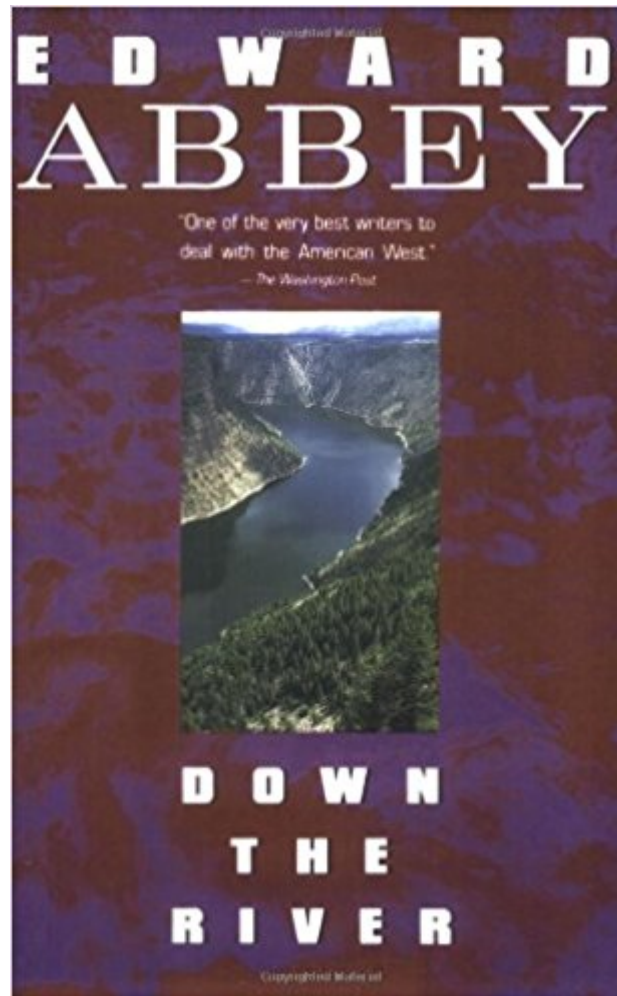




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Down The River (Plume)



Synopsis

Down the River is a collection of essays both timeless and timely. It is an exploration of the abiding beauty of some of the last great stretches of American wilderness on voyages down rivers where the body and mind float free, and the grandeur of nature gives rise to meditations on everything from the life of Henry David Thoreau to the militarization of the open range. At the same time, it is an impassioned condemnation of what is being done to our natural heritage in the name of progress, profit, and security. Filled with fiery dawns, wild and shining rivers, and radiant sandstone canyons, it is charged as well with heartfelt, rampageous rage at human greed, blindness, and folly. It is, in short, Edward Abbey at his best, where and when we need him most.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Abbey’s unique prose voice | is the voice of a full-blooded man airing his passions | alternately misanthropic and sentimental, enraged and hilarious.” “People – The man, quite simply, is a master.” The Bloomsbury Review “A record as important and lovely as Muir’s or Thoreau’s.” New York Post “One of our foremost Western essayists and novelists. A militant conservationist, he has attracted a large following – not only within the ranks of Sierra Club enthusiasts and backpackers, but also among armchair appreciators of good writing. What always made his work doubly interesting is the sense of a true maverick spirit at large – a kind of spirit not imitable, limited only to the highest class of literary outlaws.” The Denver Post

• Abbey is a gadfly with a stinger like a scorpion. • "Wallace Stegner • In his own inimitable fashion, Abbey prevails among the scant handful of our best and brightest fresh-air scribes. • "Chicago Sun-Times

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I have read many of Abbey's non-fiction books, but I don't think any of them matches the coherence (as in theme) and consistency (as in quality) of *Desert Solitaire*. Abbey himself thinks "Down the River" is better than *Desert Solitaire*, but I think otherwise. A recurring problem with Abbey's later books is that they are collections of his essays written over a span of years, some already published in other magazines and books, this rather makes them disjointed, and the quality of the essays sometimes vary a great degree too. Nevertheless, the first essay in this book, "Down the River with Henry Thoreau" is one of my favorite of Abbey's writing. It weaves a river rafting journey with a review of Thoreau's life and work, the format is quite original (although I suspect it had been used before) and refreshing. Other essays in this book are not nearly as impressive. A side note: this book does not include an essay about "rafting Glen Canyon before it was dammed". That is the essay "Down the River" (which is itself a beautiful piece) in *Desert Solitaire*, don't get them confused. Also, "The Damnation of a Canyon" in "Beyond the Wall" touches on the topic as well.

Edward Abbey is a free spirit in every sense of the Sixties. This book is a gift to my cardiologists whatever heart scanner. He, the tech. is an old soul. Mr. Abbey duplicated Major Powell's rafting trip down the Green River into the Grand Canyon. Mr. A did it because the Army Corps of Engineers were about to build the Glen Canyon Dam, which destroyed many of the Ancient Ones buildings. Read the book. You will either like it or not.

Edward Abbey is a national treasure

A friend of mine suggested I read Abbey As I have waded through his writings I have yet to find a story that wasn't completely captivating and Down the river is no exception!

Great book.

It's classic Ed! A collection of stories about some of his trips down the river...What river? Many

rivers, different experiences from Alaska to Mexico.If you love Abbey, this should definitely be included in your collection.

Seems to be a compilation of short stories and essays and observations of his of a variety of subjects many of them involving river trips. Typical Abbey stuff and if you like his writing you'll probably like this. Good for before bed or on trips when you don't want to follow a long novel and all of its characters and plot twists. A little dated in some aspects though, one essay is about his opposition to the MX missile project of the 80s so that's a bit of history there. Not bad.

Great .

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