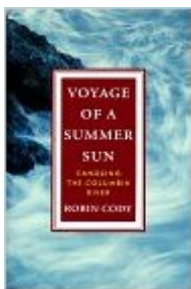


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# Voyage Of A Summer Sun: Canoeing The Columbia River



## Synopsis

The author of *Richochet River* describes his eighty-two day voyage down the Columbia River, from its source to the sea, chronicling his adventures, wildlife, and encounters with the colorful human characters he meets along the way. Tour.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Of the hundreds of books I have on the Pacific Northwest, this is easily one of my favorites. Aside from Robin Cody simply being an excellent writer, enjoyable to read, easy to follow, this book specifically invokes a true sense of place of the Columbia. It has a flavor of the classic *Farthest Frontier*, adventure, outdoors, wide open Northwest in the spirit of David Thompson, Theodore Winthrop, James Swan and the like (not to mention Lewis & Clark). Robin Cody evokes a sense of place right up there with the best like Stewart Holbrook, Murray Morgan, Ivan Doig, etc. The book touches on places here and there along the Columbia giving the reader a good feel for not only the Columbia of today, but in the past, before the Dams! Man thinks he's "tamed" the Columbia, but the majesty & power is still there and Cody conveys some of it. The main problem with the book is that it is much too short, I wanted more - I'd like to see the full journal of his travels. You couch potatoes (ok me too) don't really understand what it really means to spend nearly 3 months and 1200 miles in a itty bitty canoe on one of the world's biggest river. Clearly the mighty Columbia spoke during his journey, Cody listened well, and did a good job telling us about what the River said. A must read, along with the similar flavored *The Good Rain* by Timothy Egan.

This is a great book if you like travel adventures. For anyone who has had the desire to float, canoe or kayak down a river, or if you have a particular interest in the Columbia, this is a great read. I love the history of the area traveled and especially enjoyed when the river took over at the Canadian border less than two miles from where I live. It's a great river journey story and I've read as many as I can get my hands on.

From Canadian wilderness to Longview smelters, the book introduces all the issues that embroil the Columbia: from hydropower to nuclear waste to logging to salmon to treaties. Unable to dwell too long on any particular issue, Cody doesn't try to draw specific conclusions from his journey. His focus on the geologic timescale of the river leaves the impression that time will smooth the ripples of human folly. The down-to-earth stories of the people he meets argues that although the collective results might have been foolish, the participants were/are hard-working, well-meaning, humans. Beyond politics then, *Voyage* does a wonderful job of stirring the restless energy to explore and experience that wells up from the constraints of two weeks of vacation a year

As a Washington State resident, I see the Columbia river all the time. It fascinates me. It's literally everywhere. I got this book not because I canoe (I don't) but I love reading about adventurous journeys such as this and also it's about the Columbia. I got my Columbia river history fix AND an adventurous journey book rolled into one. I most enjoyed when he'd meet up with people along his journey and interact with them. I think this is a fine book and I'm very glad I got it.

What a great book! I live nowhere near the Pacific Northwest and had no particular interest in the Columbia River, but I was completely enthralled by this book. Robin Cody is a gifted writer whose clever and descriptive phrases make this a truly enjoyable read. The book was well-paced and balanced, striking just the right blend of adventure, history, and philosophy. Robin is able to summarize complex topics (eg, hydroelectric power, logging, etc) into succinct and clear perspectives, and he is able to convey his heartfelt appreciation for nature and its beauty in a genuine and convincing way. It's a shame that a writer as gifted as Robin has written so little -- I really didn't want this book to end!

I thoroughly enjoyed this read. Cody's observations on the impact of technical advancement on an ecosystem were candid and not overly political or strident. This would be an excellent book for students of atmospheric and earth sciences. Robin Cody is a gifted story teller and narrator.

It's obvious from *Voyage of a Summer Sun* that Robin Cody loves the wilderness and the river, but he does an excellent job of presenting its importance without sliding very far into environmentalism per se, by which I mean he also shows the people and projects that have tampered with the Columbia, sometimes drastically, and he shows them with a minimum of slant. Cody's prose is easy to read, and his focus shifts pleasantly between the people he meets, the river itself, the issues surrounding it, and the workings of the canoe trip. The real problem I see is that Cody took his trip in 1990. Some of his information, obviously, is still solid, but in other areas, *Voyage* is getting dated. There's been a whole new round of power generation arguments, salmon policy changes, and weather shifts since then. The Hanford tank farms, in particular, have completed a major cleanup project, and a lot of the menacing toxic-waste threats he announces have been solved, softened, or shown to be less dangerous than thought. So it's a good book, but you have to read it with its age in mind.

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