

# Grand Adventures in Reading

## **Woodswoman by Anne LaBastille**

Ecologist Anne LaBastille created the life that many people dream about. When she and her husband divorced, she needed a place to live. Through luck and perseverance she found the ideal spot: a twenty-acre parcel of land in the Adirondack Mountains, where she built the cozy primitive log cabin that became her permanent home. Miles from the nearest town, LaBastille had to depend on her wits, ingenuity, and the help of generous neighbors for her survival. IN precise, poetic language, she chronicles her adventures on Black Bear Lake, capturing the power of the landscape, the rhythms of the changing seasons, and the beauty of nature's many creatures. Most of all, she captures the struggle to balance her need for companionship and love with her desire for independence and solitude. Woodswoman is not simply a book about living in the wilderness; it is a book about living that contains a lesson for us all. --Back cover

## **Lobster Chronicles by Linda Greenlaw**

Declared "a triumph" by the "New York Times" Book Review, Greenlaw's first book, "The Hungry Ocean, " appeared on many bestseller lists. Now, taking a break from the sword-fishing career that earned her a major role in "The Perfect Storm, " Greenlaw returns to Isle au Haut--a tiny Maine island with a population of 70 year-round residents, 30 of who are Greenlaw's relatives.

## **The Hungry Ocean: A Swordboat Captain's Journey by Linda Greenlaw**

In The Perfect Storm, Sebastian Junger describes Linda Greenlaw as "one of the best sea captains, period, on the East Coast." Now Greenlaw tells her own riveting story of a thirty-day swordfishing voyage aboard one of the best-outfitted boats on the East Coast, complete with danger, humor, and characters so colorful they seem to have been ripped from the pages of Moby Dick. The excitement starts immediately, even before Greenlaw and her five-man crew leaves the dock--and doesn't stop until the last page. While under way, she must contend with savage weather, equipment failure, too few fish, and too many sharks--not to mention the routinely backbreaking work of operating a fishing boat in a state of mind-numbing exhaustion after working ten 21-hour days in a row. With a true fisherman's gift for spinning a yarn and a voice that's wry, honest, and all her own, Greenlaw brings readers right on deck with her and her crew, re-creating the experience of going for the big haul against awesome odds. At once a thrilling page-turner and a passionate ode to a fascinating way of life, The Hungry Ocean will captivate lovers of the sea, adventure, and literature alike. Book jacket

## **Race Across Alaska: First Woman to Win the Iditarod Tells Her Story by Libby Riddles**

This story describes Libby Riddles adventures on the Iditarod a 1,200 mile race from Anchorage to Nome, Alaska. Having run the race previous, Libby is aware of the hardship involoved, but nothing holds her back. This is the exhilarating story of a courageous woman and her heroic sled dogs that took on the brutal race and won.

### **Arctic Daughter by Jean Aspen**

Aspen, daughter of the author-adventurer Connie Helmericks, at the age of 22, moved to the wilderness of Alaska, to live off the land. Aspen and her then boyfriend Phil, canoed and hiked to what they considered the perfect location. They ate salted and dried horse meat, berries, and even raw, rubbery moose that contained "the wriggly pearl of a maggot." Completely alone the couple built a cabin by hand, hunted for themselves and their dog. Based on Aspens journal of the time, this is an entertaining, though not humorous account of their hardships and triumphs.

### **Albatross: The True Story of a Woman's Survival at Sea by Deborah Scaling Kiley**

Uncomfortable with the captain, John, Deb ignores her misgivings and agrees to help crew the ship Trashman. They first sailed from Maine to Annapolis, where John and his girlfriend Meg hire on two more crew members, Brad and Mark. Sailing without charts, they encountered gale winds and high seas off the North Carolina coast on the second day out. When a huge wave crashes through the cabin windows, the Trashman sinks. Deb and the rest of the crew escape in a rubber dinghy. Without food or water, they are stranded in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. Meg, injured in the crash succumbs to her injuries. Soon after John and Mark, dehydrated and delirious, fall overboard and drown. That left Deb and Brad. Struggling with the belief they will be rescued, they succeed when a Russian freighter spots them and picks them up and delivers them back to shore. This is a disturbing story of stamina and survival.

### **The Survival of Jan Little by John Man**

Born with sight and hearing impairment, Jan Little dreams of homesteading. She moves to Mexico where she meets and marries Harry Little. The three of them move to a homestead in the jungles of Mexico. As civilization encroaches on their patch of wilderness, Harry moves them to Brazil. Life is troubled, Harry is emotionally abusive and fanatical, but life becomes even harder when Harry dies. Soon Rachel also dies, leaving Jan on her own to find her way out of the jungle. Jan's journey back to civilization is the main focus of the book. Limited by her vision and hearing impairment, she shows courage and fortitude in the face of adversity.

### **Beyond the Limits: A Woman's Triumph on Everest by Stacy Allison**

On September 29, 1988, Allison stood atop Mt. Everest, the first American woman to reach the summit. Her achievement was doubly gratifying since it came on the heels of a failed attempt in 1987, defeated by the weather. With Carlin (Brave New Bride), Allison recounts her introduction to serious climbing in such places as Zion National Park, Yosemite, Mt. McKinley, Ama Dablam in Nepal. For her, caught in an abusive marriage, climbing was more than a challenge. It was freedom. Establishing a construction business, she worked to raise money for expeditions and continued to climb. Her account of the 1988 expedition affords a glimpse into the world of big-time international climbing; her own experiences reveal admirable courage and determination. This year, Allison is leading an expedition to K2. —Publisher's weekly

### **Polar Dream by Helen Thayer**

In March 1988, Thayer, a 50-year-old New Zealander, set out from Resolute, NW Territories, to ski to the North Magnetic Pole, located just south of King Christian Island; she pulled her supplies (160 lbs.) on a sled. Three days before departure, a hunter gave her a black husky, Charlie, as protection against polar bears. The animal proved to be an ideal companion, saving her life and her sanity. It was a grueling journey: woman and dog fought off polar bears, barely escaped drowning, survived storms. Near the end, a gale blew away most of Thayer's food supplies; her daily ration during the final week was a handful of walnuts and a pint of water. After 364 miles, 27 days, Thayer and Charlie were picked up by plane on Melena Island--mission accomplished. This is an exciting story of human endurance and of a remarkable animal. —Publisher's weekly

### **Between a Rock and a Hard Place by Aron Ralston**

One of the most extraordinary survival stories ever told -- Aron Ralston's searing account of his six days trapped in one of the most remote spots in America, and how one inspired act of bravery brought him home. It started out as a simple hike in the Utah canyonlands on a warm Saturday afternoon. For Aron Ralston, a twenty-seven-year-old mountaineer and outdoorsman, a walk into the remote Blue John Canyon was a chance to get a break from a winter of solo climbing Colorado's highest and toughest peaks. He'd earned this weekend vacation, and though he met two charming women along the way, by early afternoon he finally found himself in his element: alone, with just the beauty of the natural world all around him. It was 2:41 P.M. Eight miles from his truck, in a deep and narrow slot canyon, Aron was climbing down off a wedged boulder when the rock suddenly, and terrifyingly, came loose. Before he could get out of the way, the falling stone pinned his right hand and wrist against the canyon wall. And so began six days of hell for Aron Ralston. With scant water and little food, no jacket for the painfully cold nights, and the terrible knowledge that he'd told no one where he was headed, he found himself facing a lingering death -- trapped by an 800-pound boulder 100 feet down in the bottom of a canyon. As he eliminated his escape options one by one through the days, Aron faced the full horror of his predicament: By the time any possible search and rescue effort would begin, he'd most probably have died of dehydration, if a flash flood didn't drown him before that. What does one do in the face of almost certain death? Using the video camera from his pack, Aron began recording his grateful good-byes to his family and friends all over the country, thinking back over a life filled with adventure, and documenting a last will and testament with the hope that someone would find it. (For their part, his family and friends had instigated a major search for Aron, the amazing details of which are also documented here for the first time.) The knowledge of their love kept Aron Ralston alive, until a divine inspiration on Thursday morning solved the riddle of the boulder. Aron then committed the most extreme act imaginable to save himself. *Between a Rock and a Hard Place* -- a brilliantly written, funny, honest, inspiring, and downright astonishing report from the line where death meets life -- will surely take its place in the annals of classic adventure stories.

### **Taking the Helm by Dawn Riley**

The Whitbread Round-the-World Race does not involve circumnavigating the globe but negotiating some of the most dangerous waters on earth. It proceeds from England to Uruguay to Australia to New Zealand to Uruguay to Florida and back to England. Riley became captain of the U.S. Women's Challenge (later the Heineken) in the 1993-94 race after a near-mutiny caused the original skipper to leave after the first leg, so obviously her situation was a difficult one. Nevertheless she captained the ship successfully through the other legs, despite all manner of bad weather and failing equipment, including a malfunctioning rudder. With the aid of freelance marine journalist Flanagan, she tells of the race's vicissitudes and adds a romantic touch, as her engagement to another seafarer on a different voyage hangs in the balance. —Publisher's weekly

### **Angels in the Wilderness: The True story of One woman's Survival Against All Odds.**

**by Amy Racina**

This first-person account tells how author Amy Racina survived for four days and nights, both legs badly broken, in a remote valley in California's Sierra Mountains after a sixty-foot fall during a solo hiking trip. Battling pain, fear and exhaustion, she pulled herself along with her hands, and refused to give up, even when her chances of salvation were remote.—Amazon.com

### **Maiden Voyage...**

**by Tania Aebi with Bernadette Brennan**

Aebi was a troubled teenaged girl when her father offered her a challenge--a college education or a 26-foot sloop which she would sail around the world--alone. This is the story of Aebi's 27,000 mile circumnavigation. Remarkable in that she left New York with little sailing experience and even less navigation experience. That she survived the first part of the trip is testament to higher powers who watch over fools. To her credit, she became an accomplished sailor and navigator by the end of the 2 1/2 year circumnavigation. —John Kohlen

**Arctic Homestead: The True Story of One Family's Survival and Courage in the Alaskan Wilds by Norma Cobb and Charles W. Sasser.**

In 1973, Norma Cobb, her husband Lester, and their five children, the oldest of whom was nine-years-old and the youngest, twins, barely one, pulled up stakes in the Lower Forty-eight and headed north to Alaska to follow a pioneer dream of claiming land under the Homestead Act. The only land available lay north of Fairbanks near the Arctic Circle where grizzlies outnumbered humans twenty to one. In addition to fierce winters and predatory animals, the Alaskan frontier drew the more unsavory elements of society's fringes. From the beginning, the Cobbs found themselves pitted in a life or death feud with unscrupulous neighbors who would rob from new settlers, attempt to burn them out, shoot them, and jump their claim. The Cobbs were chechakos, tenderfeet, in a lost land that consumed even toughened settlers. Everything, including their "civilized" past, conspired to defeat them. They constructed a cabin and the first snow collapsed the roof. They built too close to the creek and spring breakup threatened to flood them out. Bears prowled the nearby woods, stalking the children, and Lester Cobb would leave for months at a time in search of work. <BR>But through it all, they survived on the strength of Norma Cobb---a woman whose love for her family knew no bounds and whose courage in the face of mortal danger is an inspiration to us all.

**No Horizon is So Far: Two Women and Their Extraordinary Journey Across Antarctica by Liv Arnesen and Ann Bancroft, with Cheryl Dahle.**

To succeed, American Ann Bancroft and Norwegian Liv Arnesen would have to walk, ski, and ski-sail for nearly three months in temperatures as cold as -35[degree]F, towing their 250-pound supply sledges across almost two thousand miles of crevasse-ridden ice. And they would have to complete the journey before the harsh Antarctic winter set in and 24 hours of daylight became 24 hours of impenetrable darkness. Though even modern technology might not enable rescue should they need it, satellite phones and a laptop would ensure that Ann and Liv would complete an important part of their mission: more than three million children from sixty-five countries were connected to the expedition by website transmissions and satellite phone calls. These children learned volumes about geography, science -- and the power of dreams. Chronicling the dramatic details of this historic expedition for the first time, No Horizon Is So Far explores what drove Ann and Liv across the ice and ultimately into hearts and history books around the world. It traces the birth of their dream as girls half a globe apart, their tenacious work to assemble the necessary money and gear, and their brutally taxing trek from the Norwegian sector to the American base at McMurdo Bay. An incredible true-life adventure of danger, suspense, and endurance, No Horizon Is So Far unforgettably celebrates two modern-day heroes. Book jacket.

**Ada Blackjack: A True Story of Survival in the Arctic by Jennifer Niven**

It was controversial explorer Vilhjalmur Stefansson who sent four young men and Ada Blackjack into the far North to colonize desolate, uninhabited Wrangel Island. Only two of the men had set foot in the Arctic before. They took with them six months' worth of supplies on Stefansson's theory that this would be enough to sustain them for a year while they lived off the land itself. But as winter set in, they were struck by hardship and tragedy. As months went by and they began to starve, they were forced to ration their few remaining provisions. When three of the men made a desperate attempt to seek help, Ada was left to care for the fourth, who was too sick to travel. Soon after, she found herself totally alone. Upon Ada's miraculous return after two years on the island, the international press heralded her as the female Robinson Crusoe. Journalists hunted her down, but she refused to talk to anyone about her harrowing experiences. Only on one occasion -- after being accused of a horrible crime she did not commit -- did she speak up for herself. All the while, she was tricked and exploited by those who should have been her champions. Jennifer Niven, author of The Ice Master, narrates this remarkable true story, taking full advantage of a wealth of primary sources, including Ada Blackjack's never-before-seen diaries, the unpublished journals of other major characters, and interviews with Ada's second son. Filled with exciting adventure and fascinating history -- as well as extraordinary photographs -- Ada Blackjack is a gripping and ultimately inspiring tale of a woman who survived a terrible time in the wild only to face a different but equally trying ordeal back in civilization. Book jacket.

**[A Journey North: One Woman's Story of Hiking the Appalachian Trail](#) by Adrienne Hall**

Unaware of the A.T. until her beau asked her to hike along, Hall has become a passionate A.T. advocate and savvy outdoorswoman. Published two years after Bryson's hilarious look at the A.T., Hall focuses on the history and ecological issues surrounding the trail.

**[Surviving Australia: A Practical Guide to Staying Alive](#) by Sorrel Wilby**

Visiting the Australian outback can be a wonderful experience, but it isn't all about boomerangs and koalas, kangaroos and didgeridoos. It can be a wild and dangerous place if you're not prepared. Here is the essential travel companion for enduring the toughest stuff this rugged continent can offer -- a veritable survivor's guide to managing the unexpected when you're Down Under. Renowned Australian adventurer and best-selling author Sorrel Wilby provides you with the basic lessons on negotiating your way through the bush, across the outback, over the top end, and into the surf and sea. You'll get important lifesaving information on: where you should and shouldn't be driving your Range Rover dealing with natural hazards like river crossings, bush fires, storms, and rips warding off snakes, scorpions, crocs, and sharks encountering Aboriginal people, Bushies, Eccentrics, and Surfers finding food and water treating heatstroke, hypothermia, and tropical infections identifying proper emergency radio frequencies and much more!

**[Something Worth Doing: The Sub-Arctic Voyage of Aqua Star](#) by Judith Wright Chopra**

In May 1985 Aqua Star, a custom-built steel cutter, set out from Toronto for Churchill, Manitoba, on the west shore of Hudson Bay. No sailing vessel had ventured beyond Hudson Strait since the 19th century; it was a sparsely inhabited area of harsh terrain with ice-and fog-bound coasts. On board were the owner-skipper Leslie Sike and wife Carolann, both in their 40s; also Gay Currie, a young woman with sailing experience, and David Farr, a photographer. Chopra, who covered the voyage for Canadian Yachting and had access to the personal journals and ship's log, here re-creates the adventure in a gripping narrative of derring-do and of discord. Nearing Hudson Strait the sailors encountered ice; in the Bay they ran into heavy weather and fog. Arguments and ill-feeling continued unabated. That September, after 108 days and 3600 miles, Aqua Star reached Churchill. And all agreed, as will readers, that the voyage was something worth doing. --Publishers weekly

**[No End in Sight: My Life as a Blind Iditarod Racer](#) by Rachael Scdoris and Rick Steber.**

"For the last eleven years, twenty-one-year-old Rachel Scdoris has been a musher - guiding teams of sled dogs through mountain ranges, across frozen rivers, and over desolate tundra. It's an extraordinary achievement for a young woman, made even more remarkable by the fact that Rachel trains the dogs and competes in races without being able to fully see the animals or the race courses." "Born legally blind, Rachel grew up amid the taunts of classmates who made fun of her, but once she tapped into her innate talent as an athlete, she went on to become captain of her school track team and later an Olympic torch carrier. When Rachel discovered her love of dog sledding, she threw herself into training and competition with all her strength and all her heart. She was the youngest athlete ever to complete a 500-mile sled dog race, and she dreamed of participating in the sport's pinnacle competition: the Iditarod Trail International Sled Dog Race across the wilderness of Alaska. Because of her disability, she faced stiff opposition from the organizers of the race, but she finally achieved her goal and was allowed to participate with the help of a visual interpreter." "No End in Sight is a story of athleticism and the grace that comes from working with animals. It is also a memoir about how the support of family and an unwavering inner compass can propel anyone to achieve even seemingly insurmountable goals."--BOOK JACKET.

**Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman's Search for Everything Across Italy, India and Indonesia by Elizabeth Gilbert**

By the time she turned thirty, Elizabeth Gilbert had everything a modern, educated, ambitious American woman was supposed to want - a husband, a house in the country, a successful career. But instead of feeling happy and fulfilled, she was consumed with panic, grief and confusion. She went through a divorce, a crushing depression, another failed love and the complete eradication of everything she ever thought she was supposed to be." "To recover from all of this, Gilbert took a radical step. In order to give herself the time and space to find out who she really was and what she really wanted, she got rid of her belongings, quit her job, left her loved ones behind and undertook a year-long journey around the world, all alone. Eat, Pray, Love is the chronicle of that year. Gilbert's aim was to visit three places where she could examine one aspect of her own nature, set against the backdrop of a culture that has traditionally done that one thing very well. In Italy, she studied the art of pleasure, learning to speak Italian and gaining the twenty-three happiest pounds of her life. India was for the art of devotion, where, with the help of a native guru and a surprisingly wise Texan, she embarked on four months of austere spiritual exploration. Finally, in Indonesia, she sought her ultimate goal: balance - namely, how to somehow build a life of equilibrium between worldly enjoyment and divine transcendence. Looking for these answers on the island of Bali, she became the pupil of an elderly, ninth-generation medicine man and also fell in love in the very best way - unexpectedly." "A memoir of self-discovery, Eat, Pray, Love is about what can happen when you claim responsibility for your own contentment. It is also about the adventures that can transpire when a woman stops trying to live in imitation of society's ideals. This is a story certain to touch anyone who has ever woken up to the unrelenting need for change."--BOOK JACKET.

**My Lead Dog Was a Lesbian: Mushing Across Alaska in the Iditarod: The World's Most Grueling Race by Brian Patrick O'Donoghue.**

O'Donoghue tells what happened when he entered the 1991 Iditarod, along with 17 sled dogs with names like Rainy, Harley and Screech. O'Donoghue braved snowstorms, sickening wipeouts, and endured the contempt of more experienced racers. Narrated with icy elan and self deprecating wit, this is a true story of heroism, cussedness, and astonishing dumb luck.

**Woman Alone: Sailing Solo Across the Atlantic. by Clare Francis**

**Dove by Robin Lee Graham with Derek L. T. Gill.**

Robin Lee Graham asks a for a boat for his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, four and a half months later, he is the new owner of a 24' fiberglass sloop, named Dove. After an initial solo cruise to Hawaii, he decides to continue on around the world. Though he'd hoped to have a friend join him, he ended up sailing alone. Robin's Father, lives vicariously through his son. Becoming obsessed with the trip, he takes on the role of manager and agent. In the Fijis, Robin meets an American named Patti, he soon falls in love. When he reaches South Africa he and Patti marry. This difficult journey takes 5 years, and includes multiple repairs and eventually a replacement boat. When at age 21, Robin finds himself, unable to be a 'normal' college student, he and Patti move to Montana to a 160 acre ranch.



Lincoln City Libraries – Marcy G.  
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