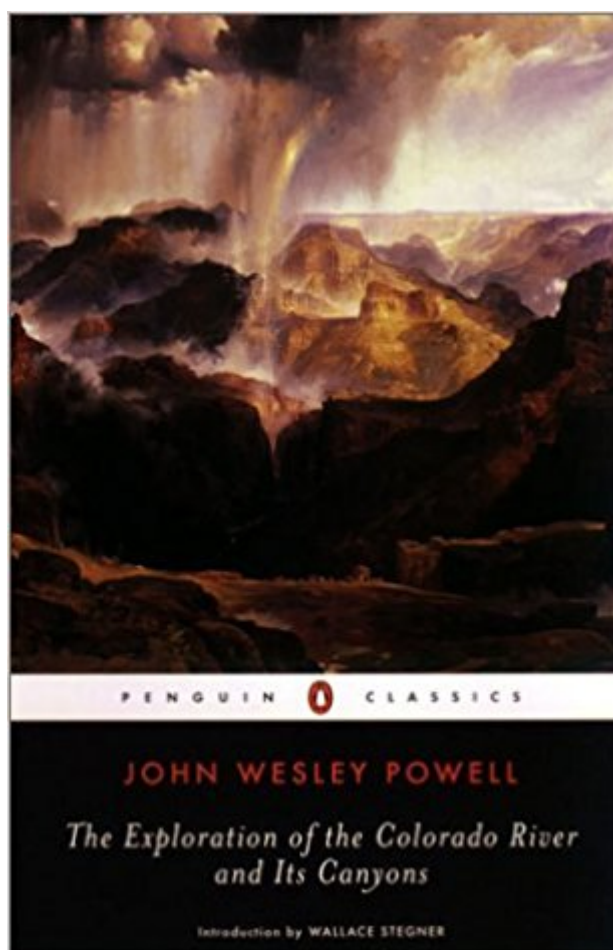


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The Exploration Of The Colorado River And Its Canyons (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

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 1874. *The Exploration of the Colorado River and Its Canyons*, recently ranked number four on *Adventure* magazine's list of top 100 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 more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 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.

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Customer Reviews

John Wesley Powell (1834-1902) was a professor of geology and director of the U.S. Geological Survey. Wallace Stegner was born in 1909 in Lake Mills, Iowa. The son of Scandinavian immigrants, he traveled with his parents and brother all over the West-to North Dakota, Washington,

Saskatchewan, Montana, and Wyoming-before settling in Salt Lake City in 1921. Many of the landscapes he encountered in his peripatetic youth figure largely in his work, as do characters based on his stern father and athletic, outgoing brother. Stegner received most of his education in Utah, graduating from the University in 1930. He furthered his education at the University of Iowa, where he received a master's and a doctoral degree. He married Mary Stuart Page in 1934, and for the next decade the couple followed Wallace's teaching career-to the University of Wisconsin, Harvard, and eventually to Stanford University, where he founded the creative writing program, and where he was to remain until his retirement in 1971. A number of his creative writing students have become some of today's most well respected writers, including Wendell Berry, Thomas McGuane, Raymond Carver, Edward Abbey, Robert Stone, and Larry McMurty. Throughout his career and after, Stegner's literary output was tremendous. His first novel, *Remembering Laughter*, was published in 1937. By the time of his death in 1993 he had published some two dozen works of fiction, history, biography, and essays. Among his many literary prizes are the Pulitzer Prize for *Angle of Repose* (1971) and the National Book Award for *The Spectator Bird* (1976). His collection of essays, *Where the Bluebird Sings to the Lemonade Springs* (1992), was nominated for the National Book Critics Circle award. Although his fiction deals with many universal themes, Stegner is primarily recognized as a writer of the American West. Much of his literature deals with debunking myths of the West as a romantic country of heroes on horseback, and his passion for the terrain and its inhabitants have earned him the title 'The Dean of Western Letters'. He was one of the few true Men of Letters in this generation. An historian, essayist, short story writer and novelist, as well as a leading environmental writer. Although always connected in people's minds with the West, he had a long association with New England. Many short stories and one of his most successful novels, *Crossing to Safety*, are set in Vermont, where he had a summer home for many years. Another novel, *The Spectator Bird*, takes place in Denmark. An early environmentalist, he actively championed the region's preservation and was instrumental-with his now-famous 'Wilderness Letter'-in the passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act. Honest and straightforward, educated yet unpretentious, cantankerous yet compassionate, Wallace Stegner was an enormous presence in the American literary landscape, a man who wrote and lived with ferocity, energy, and integrity.

I read this through like a novel, it was a great book. I admire Powell quite a bit, so I'm biased, but his narrative flows well and you can really feel the difficulty and adventure that they went through. You really feel the loss when the party splits up, and you feel the accomplishment when they finally reach another human being. I also enjoy the illustrations, especially the cover. For anyone who

wants to read the inspiring, honest account of this adventure of exploration firsthand, don't be afraid of the fact that this is a journal. I think it is much easier to read than the journals of Lewis and Clark, and any other book explaining Powell's trip is just going to be a rewording of this, and not likely to do it justice.

Pretty good. Read it before rafting down the Grand.

John Wesley Powell is one of those rare heroes and a real humanitarian. He predicted the dust bowl and water issues that plague this part of the world even today. This is an important book for anyone who is interested in this part of the world. I highly recommend it. John Horst, author of *The Mule Tamer* saga.

Must read for anyone interested in the human history of Grand Canyon. I read it years ago before my first trip into and across the canyon. I read parts of it again aloud to my sons during a recent trip. Amazing documentation of an amazing trip by one of the West's greatest explorers.

a first-hand account by a one-handed hero, the first to explore by boat the gorges of the Green and Colorado Rivers. he had lost an arm in the Civil War, but his trenchant mind and his brave heart persevered. even if you yourself never delve in the Canyon, do delve in this perceptive report. the first full paragraph on page 251 presents an insightful highlight that I will never forget.

I don't like the edition but the book came in good shape to me.

Bought this for my husband who has done the rapids in the Grand Canyon and hiked the area. He is still reading it but absolutely loves it - the language, the descriptions and the adventure. Realizing this is Powell's original work, he wishes some maps had been included. It would enhance the understanding and visualization to be able to follow Powell and his teams as they explore the Colorado especially since many names have changed over the years.

Although this one-armed Major from the Civil War has a tendency to marginalize the dangers, turmoil, and strenuous labor that was required to forge the uncharted waters of the Grand Canyon in 1869, you definitely "get it". Through trial and error, they learned how to read the geology and how they could predict what may lie ahead by the types and angles of the strata that formed the river's

edge. However, knowing what was ahead only added to the tension and they still had to make crucial last minute decisions, sometimes too late. I was totally enthralled with this adventure and couldn't put the book down.

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