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The Survival of the Bark Canoe

John McPhee

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John McPhee : The Survival of the Bark Canoe before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Survival of the Bark Canoe:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. and pretty much what you would expect when he get his ...By CustomerVintage McPhee, and pretty much what you would expect when he get his oar (ok--paddle) in the water.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy ScillaInteresting story of modern replication of Malecite designed canoes built by someone from NH in the 1970's.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great

storyBy Michel FrancoisExcellent character study on Henri Vaillancourt. Eccentrics abound in the world of birchbark canoe building. How could they not. McPhee portrays him unvarnished and heroic all in a great story from the woodyard to the workshop to the river. A story well told.

In Greenville, New Hampshire, a small town in the southern part of the state, Henri Vaillancourt makes birch-bark canoes in the same manner and with the same tools that the Indians used. *The Survival of the Bark Canoe* is the story of this ancient craft and of a 150-mile trip through the Maine woods in those graceful survivors of a prehistoric technology. It is a book squarely in the tradition of one written by the first tourist in these woods, Henry David Thoreau, whose *The Maine Woods* recounts similar journeys in similar vessel. As McPhee describes the expedition he made with Vaillancourt, he also traces the evolution of the bark canoe, from its beginnings through the development of the huge canoes used by the fur traders of the Canadian North Woods, where the bark canoe played the key role in opening up the wilderness. He discusses as well the differing types of bark canoes, whose construction varied from tribe to tribe, according to custom and available materials. In a style as pure and as effortless as the waters of Maine and the glide of a canoe, John McPhee has written one of his most fascinating books, one in which his talents as a journalist are on brilliant display.

.com In an age of mass-produced and disposable objects, traditional crafts are becoming extinct, and appreciation for craftsmanship has become a hobby for the wealthy dilettante. But here and there, a few stalwart individuals carry on the old traditions. Henri Vaillancourt of Greenville, New Hampshire is in large part responsible for the continuing survival of the birch bark canoe. McPhee tells the story not only of Vaillancourt and his work, but of the canoe's role in American history. Many McPhee fans consider this lovely and lucid book one of his finest works. In his own beautifully crafted work, McPhee treats both man and boat with all the respect and admiration their precarious presence commands. TimeEvery white water and wilderness buff should rise to it like a trout, but as all followers of Mr. McPhee's work would expect, its appeal and value cannot be so narrowly limited; it's a lively chronicle, rich in character study and observations. The Wall Street JournalAbout the AuthorJohn McPhee was born in Princeton, New Jersey, and was educated at Princeton University and Cambridge University. His writing career began at Time magazine and led to his long association with The New Yorker, where he has been a staff writer since 1965. Also in 1965, he published his first book, *A Sense of Where You Are*, with Farrar, Straus and Giroux, and in the years since, he has written nearly 30 books, including *Oranges* (1967), *Coming into the Country* (1977), *The Control of Nature* (1989), *The Founding Fish* (2002), *Uncommon Carriers* (2007), and *Silk Parachute* (2011). *Encounters with the Archdruid* (1972) and *The Curve of Binding Energy* (1974) were nominated for National Book Awards in the category of science. McPhee received the Award in Literature from the Academy of Arts and Letters in 1977. In 1999, he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for *Annals of the Former World*. He lives in Princeton, New Jersey.