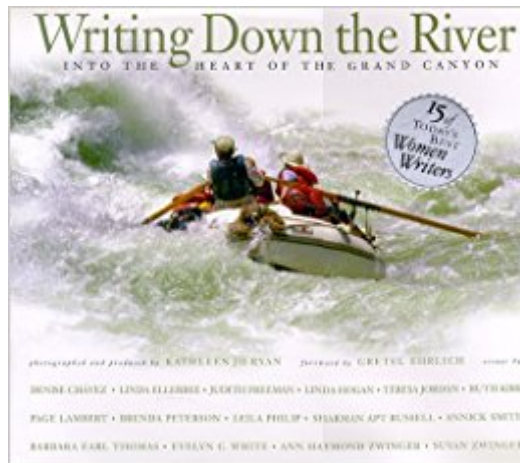




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# Writing Down The River: Into The Heart Of The Grand Canyon



## Synopsis

With 15 of today's finest literary writers as your guides, this book will take you into the depths of the Grand Canyon for a ride you will never forget. "For 12 days and 180 miles on the river, I am filled with awe--so struck by it, in fact, that if I have any courage at all, I shall never be the same".--Theresa Jordan. 100+ color photos.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Photographer Kathleen Jo Ryan first witnessed the awe-inspiring spectacle of the Grand Canyon in 1987. A year later she rafted the Colorado River into the canyon, emerging from this transforming experience with the idea for a book: "Going down the river into the heart of the canyon is adventuring into a place of spirit. I hold a warm, overwhelming feeling of gratitude, respect, and humility for having been allowed to float and play through this majestic canyon." In *Writing Down the River* Ryan shares her gratitude by inviting women writers to venture down the Colorado and contribute their "personal journeys." Gretel Ehrlich provides context--historical, geographic, and biographical--in the foreword, and 15 other writers join the celebration with their individual voices. Sharman Apt Russell, author of *When the Land Was Young: Reflections on American Archaeology*, describes her initial peek: "My heart starts beating fast when I first see the Grand Canyon, looking down from the South Rim, the vertigo of too much space. My bones feel hollow, like a bird's bones." Annick Smith, editor of *The Last Best Place: A Montana Anthology*, writes about the roar of the rapids: "Then comes the fifth wave. We climb up and up, stroking hard, but we do not cut through. The wave grows. It's a demon curling above us. Its foaming dragon breath is distinct as a Japanese

painting, alive. Now I am stroking air." Judith Freeman, author of *A Desert of Pure Feeling*, writes of the lingering aftereffects: "For many nights after I left the river I awoke in darkness with the feeling I was still in the canyon. I sat up suddenly in strange beds, in desert motels and distant cities, certain that I was still sleeping on a rock ledge or a spit of sand." Ryan's photographs of rock, water, and sky round out this evocative portrait of a place unlike any in the world. Taken as a whole, *Writing Down the River* is a collection of personal reflections as well as a tribute to the unifying power of landscape.

I took my first trip down the Grand Canyon last September. It was life-changing. Who better to capture the beauty and poetry of this amazing place than writers? Each writer offers something different, but all are writing from their own experience going down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. The writing is beautiful, moving, and heartfelt. If you've been down the Colorado, you'll probably love revisiting it through the eyes and words of these women. If you haven't, this will give you a vicarious taste of the experience (and maybe an urge to go yourself). The pictures are beautiful. I recall that the editor took them. Overall a very enjoyable and worthwhile book.

Very good reading, with excellent comments on the Grand Canyon, the experiences of rafting the river and essays on how the canyon touches people in different ways. I have just completed an 8 day trip of over 280 miles in the canyon and experienced every emotion and awe-inspiring moment described in the book. The photographs are worth the purchase price alone. A must read before and after taking a trip down the wondrous Colorado in the Grand Canyon

The photos and the stories in this book are great. Wish I was back on the river. All the sights, sounds and smells of the river were brought back

I have purchased "used books" via many times. All items including this one have reflected truth in advertising. Good book to enjoy often or to use as a rafting resource which is why I bought it.

The women who wrote the essays in this book rafted the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon during the same summer I did. Reading this book was like being there again. Each essay looks at the canyon from the unique perspective of the author. They give voice to the many feelings the canyon brings to the surface -- from the fear that you won't make it through the rapids to the pure joy at seeing Deer Creek Falls or Havasu Creek. The pictures are lovely and fitting so you can see

what the authors are writing about. Sometimes the pictures include the authors such as Linda Ellerbee. If you have rafted through the Grand Canyon, you will love this book. If you haven't been, read this book and you will want to go.

I haven't received my copy yet but I can certainly review the experience. I saw Kathleen Jo Ryan on PBS on Sunday morning and as each photograph flashed up on the screen I just gasped because I too made this journey last summer and each photo brought back to me the precious days on that journey of a lifetime, recognizing each cave, slot canyon, falls and utter and absolute peace that I found in that place. Words just can't do it. I could go on for hours about it (and often do) The only words that I can find that come close os to say simply that it touched my soul. No one who makes this journey can ever be the same again. If you do nothing else in your life -make this trip. See Ms Ryan's book for an introduction.I plan to go again next summer. I look forward to my copy of this book of memories to keep me warm until I can be back on the river again.

Writing Down the River grabs your heart and broadens your understanding of the power of the western landscape. The photographs are amazing in themselves; the essays stunning.Sybil Downing, award winning author of Ladies of the Goldfield Stock Exchange

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