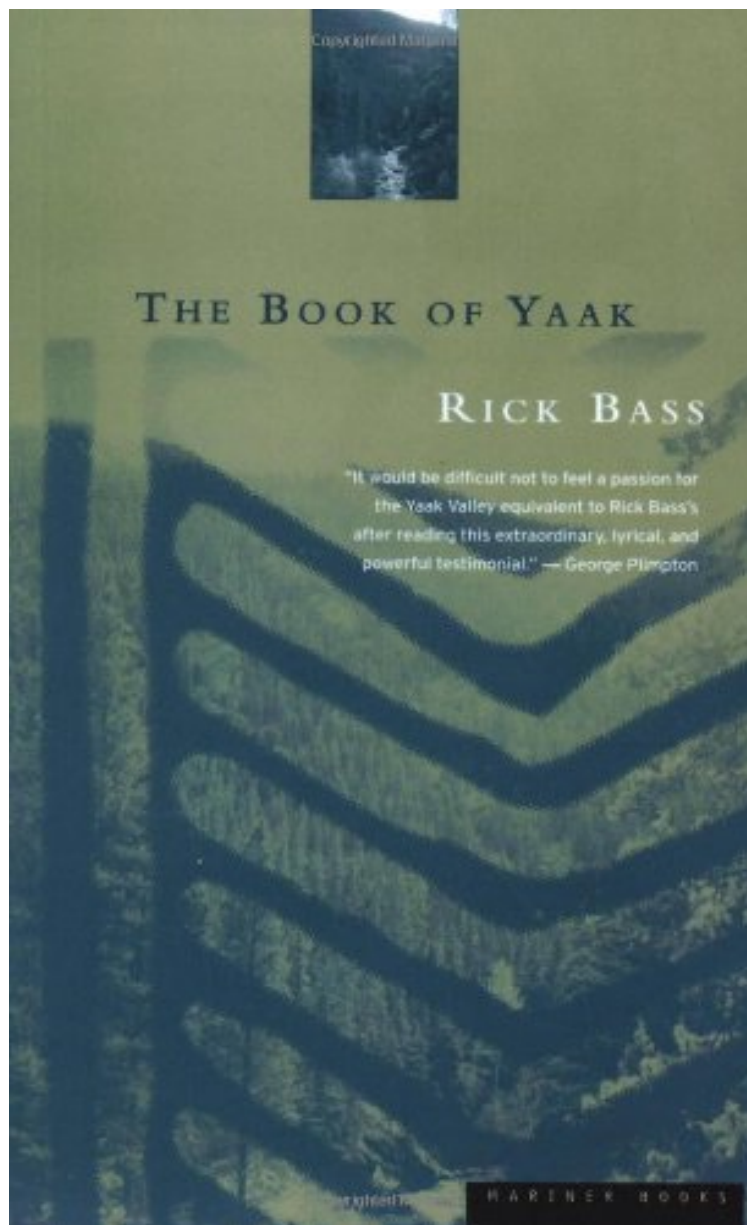


(Free read ebook) The Book of Yaak

The Book of Yaak

Rick Bass

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Rick Bass : The Book of Yaak before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Book of Yaak:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. it's a good read because it does a nice job portraying a ...By ZenThere's a chapter in this book about my deceased sister, Rosalind, so this is admittedly a biased review. I apologize if this skews the ratings a little, but I'm indulging myself on this one. For me, it's a lovely tribute to my sister. For those who don't know her, whether you agree with her view of conservation or not, it's a good read because it does a nice job portraying a person with a strong passion for her work, yet was able to carry it out with such good nature and without a shred of self-righteousness. A rare combination for someone so committed to a cause, especially nowadays.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. GreatBy The Belgrade SkwalaGreat book, wonderful prose. Slightly preachy, but definitely worth reading.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Loved itBy MERRY L SSince I was born and raised in the Yaak I was particularly thrilled to read more of the history from another point of view.

The Yaak Valley of northwestern Montana is one of the last great wild places in the United States, a land of black bears and grizzlies, wolves and coyotes, bald and golden eagles, wolverine, lynx, marten, fisher, elk, and even a handful of humans. It is a land of magic, but its magic may not be enough to save it from the forces threatening it now. The Yaak does have one trick up its sleeve, though: a writer to give it voice. In *Winter* Rick Bass portrayed the wonder of living in the valley. In *The Book of Yaak* he captures the soul of the valley itself, and he shows how, if places like the Yaak are lost, we too are lost. Rick Bass has never been a writer to hold back, but *The Book of Yaak* is his most passionate book yet, a dramatic narrative of a man fighting to defend the place he loves.

.com Rick Bass, a prolific writer of considerable merit, has crafted an elegant plea to save the ecosystem of the Yaak Valley in northwestern Montana. Bass argues that the Yaak deserves to be saved, both for its beauty and for its role in a biological system that stretches through much of North America. To enamor readers with the Yaak he describes it with reverence, and in doing so makes us care. "We are all complicit," he says.From Library JournalPopular outdoor author Bass (*Lost Grizzlies*, LJ 11/1/95) returns to his home turf in the Yaak Valley of northwestern Montana, also the setting for his *Winter Notes from Montana* (LJ 2/15/91). As a resident of that remote area for over ten years, Bass seems to have been accepted by the few locals who populate the canyon. Much of this work concerns his attempt to protect the remaining wilderness of the area, a vital corridor for genetic replenishment of wildlife from Canada. As he ponders the question of the worth of such a place, Bass writes countless letters to anyone he feels may aid in stopping the construction of the roads that facilitate logging in the area. Although bitterness occasionally surfaces in his account, the author remains hopeful as he describes attempts to forge alliances with diverse groups of loggers, hunters, and other residents. In the process of reconciling his artistic side (writing) with his scientific training as a geologist, he once again paints a marvelous portrait of life in an area of rugged beauty. Recommended for all public, regional, and nature collections.?Tim Markus, Evergreen State Coll. Lib., Olympia, Wash.Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Kirkus sAn urgent plea by a longtime resident to preserve one of the lower 48's remaining wilderness areas. Nestled where Idaho, Montana, and Alberta, Canada, meet, the Yaak Valley--the name means ``arrow" in Kootenai--is a treasure vault of old-growth pine, spruce, and Douglas fir. It is also a prime target for the logging industry, which now seeks to open the Yaak to clearcut logging. Bass (*The Lost Grizzlies*, 1995, etc.) is scandalized by this possibility, especially inasmuch as the US Forest Service subsidizes such logging ``to the tune of one or two billion dollars per decade" and ``timber companies working on public lands in the West continue to post record quarterly profits for their stockholders"--precisely because of the government's largess. This well-written, impatient, often polemical book urges that the Yaak, and other wild places, be set aside from economic development, and Bass's program is modest: ``I want," he writes, ``the last few roadless areas in this still-wild valley to remain that way." He also celebrates the power of wilderness to inspire the meditative, simple life: ``I practice going slow," he says, ``at a pace that can be sustained. I practice looking around at things." He also introduces us to neighbors who have found a special solace in the deep woods. Bass argues that most Montanans and Idahoans oppose any further destruction of their backyard wilderness and demonstrates how important old-growth forest is to the health of the entire ecosystem. Much of this will be familiar territory to readers who know Bass's work, for he has written about the Yaak before in books like *Winter* (1991) and *The Ninemile Wolves* (1992). Even so, this is a valuable document in the continuing battle over wilderness preservation. -- Copyright 1996, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.