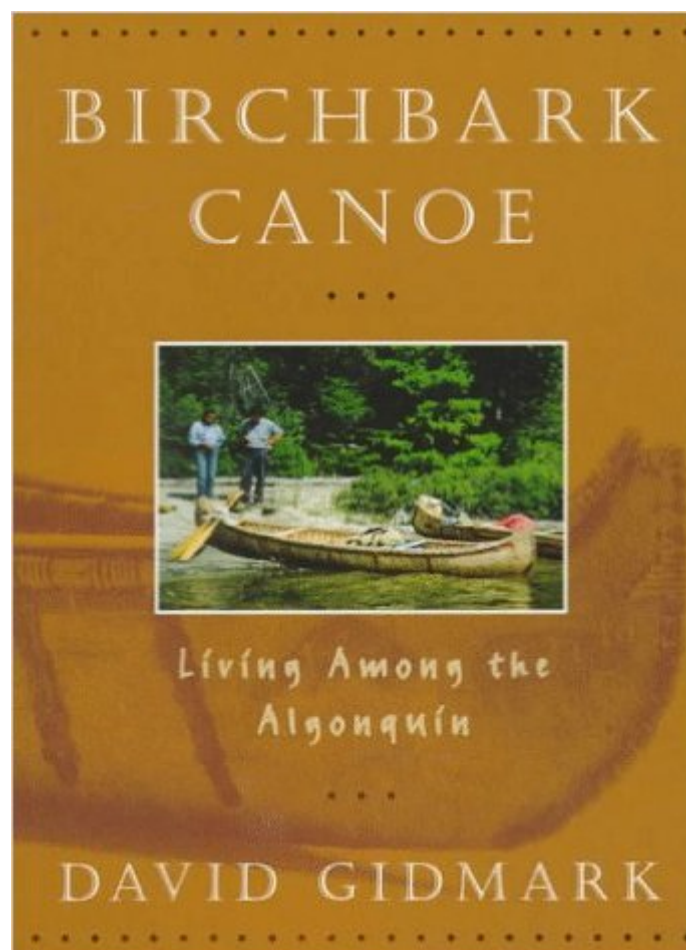


The book was found

Birchbark Canoe: Living Among The Algonquins



Synopsis

Discover the dying art of birchbark canoe building as seen through the eyes of someone who is passionate about it. In this book David Gidmark tells the story of the building of a traditional birchbark canoe and his apprenticeship learning the skills and the language of the Algonquin of western Quebec. Through learning how to do (how to strip the bark from the tree, fashion gunwales from the cedar logs, carve the ribs with a crooked knife and sew the huge sheets of bark onto the frame with spruce root) David Gidmark learns how to see the wilderness and relate to it in Algonquin ways that are very different from ours. As his knowledge increases, so does his respect for the culture and wisdom of native peoples. Part way through this odyssey, he meets his future wife, Ernestine, a young Ojibway woman who was taken at the age of five from her family and placed in a residential school. As she and David made a life together in the woods, she was able to begin relearning her language and culture.

Book Information

Paperback: 202 pages

Publisher: Firefly Books; First Printing edition (September 1, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1552091503

ISBN-13: 978-1552091500

Product Dimensions: 6.8 x 0.8 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #435,699 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #136 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Outdoor Recreation > Canoeing](#) #332 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > History > Ships](#) #662 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > Ships](#)

Customer Reviews

I came to a quite different opinion about David Gidmark's book than did the first reviewer; I think it is a very elegant book that combines practical information about birchbark canoes with a very human approach to the relationship between the White and the Native cultures. Gidmark addresses fundamental questions of how one should live in this world and comes to conclusions based on his personal experiences. He discusses Thoreau's interest in the birchbark canoe, and says, "I admired innumerable things about Thoreau, but one with which I most empathized, and most wanted to

emulate, was his idea that people could best flourish by living on the borderline, literally, between civilization and wilderness, thereby deriving the greatest benefits from each." Gidmark goes on to describe his simple lifestyle in his cabin by a "lake with no name," and concludes that he was "far ahead of four billion people-at least-on the planet in terms of material possessions. I had a truck, all the food I wanted and needed, the money and time to travel freely to various countries, and money for clothes and books. In peace of mind I was immensely richer than hundreds of millions of people, particularly in North America, who are so wired into the contemporary consumer society that both husband and wife have to work outside the home and have neither time nor money for significant travel, for instance." Perhaps this is "holier-than-thou," but that could be said about any book that advocates the benefits of an exercise program, for example. Gidmark criticizes the "materialistic" society only from the standpoint that it leads to stress. I'm sure that he is happy to have people buy his books. The book, by the way, includes a sixteen-page insert of beautiful color photographs of Jim Jerome and Jocko Carle building a birchbark canoe at Rapid Lake, Quebec. I highly recommend it to anybody interested in birchbark canoes.

I'm hard-pressed to expand upon the comments of the previous reviewer (Mr. Wheaton), except to say that I thought the book was highly readable, enjoyable, and very informative. I especially appreciated the author's attention to the Algonquin language. Gidmark intersperses many Indian words and phrases throughout the text, giving the reader a feeling for the tongue's complexity and beauty. I recommend the book to anyone interested in canoeing, and the north.

Good read. Gives good starting insight into an alternate social system and the evolution caused by contact with today's society. Brings back memories of birch bark canoes and hand made boats from my youth. I didn't see any particular bias in the presentation. It was a reasonable account based on his observations. Like the Amish or some of the South American and African tribes, these folks are all too soon locked into modern society by economics. Unlike coverage by author John Perkins of some of the South American tribes, there isn't a presumption of evil on behalf of capitalism or communism. The observation rather chronicles the assimilation and shrinkage of the Algonquin legacy brought about by increasing social, economic, and political pressures.

I think this book would be great, but the version showing is not the quality version you will get. The one they have listed has a color cover and is printed on nice paper the one you get in the mail is printed on coloring-book style paper with very very poor image quality. You know the greyish

color book paper that are in kids' coloring books? So the photos and illustrations are useless as far as detail goes. You can't even read Chapelle's writing on the lines drawings or see the photos. Get it somewhere else and make sure you're paying more than \$15.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Birchbark Canoe: Living Among the Algonquins Living Off The Grid And Loving It: 40 Creative Ways To Living A Stress Free And Self-Sustaining Lifestyle (Simple Living, Off Grid Living, Off The Grid Homes, DIY Survival Guide, Prepping & Survival) No Good Men Among the Living: America, the Taliban, and the War through Afghan Eyes Real Goods Solar Living Sourcebook: Your Complete Guide to Living beyond the Grid with Renewable Energy Technologies and Sustainable Living Tiny Houses : Beginners Guide: Tiny House Living On A Budget, Building Plans For A Tiny House, Enjoy Woodworking, Living Mortgage Free And Sustainably ... Design,construction,country living) Building a Strip Canoe, Second Edition, Revised & Expanded: Full-Sized Plans and Instructions for Eight Easy-To-Build, Field-Tested Canoes Building the Maine Guide Canoe Canoe and Boat Building: A Complete Manual for Amateurs. Containing Plain and Comprehensive Directions for the Construction of Canoes, Rowing and Sailing Boats and Hunting Craft The canoe: A history of the craft from Panama to the Arctic Canoeing & Kayaking West Virginia (Canoe and Kayak Series) Canoeing and Kayaking Florida (Canoe and Kayak Series) Paddle to the : The Ultimate 12,000-Mile Canoe Adventure Paddling Southern Wisconsin: 83 Great Trips by Canoe and Kayak, 2nd Revised Edition (Trails Books Guide) Crossing the Driftless: A Canoe Trip through a Midwestern Landscape Canoe and Kayak Routes of Northwest Oregon and Southwest Washington, 3rd Edition: Including Southwest Washington A Canoeing and Kayaking Guide to Kentucky (Canoe and Kayak Series) Canoeing and Kayaking New York (Canoe and Kayak Series) 20 Great BWCA Trips: Exploring the Boundary Waters Canoe Area An Adirondack Passage: The Cruise of the Canoe Sairy Gamp Boundary Waters East [Canoe Area Wilderness, Superior National Forest] (National Geographic Trails Illustrated Map)

[Dmca](#)