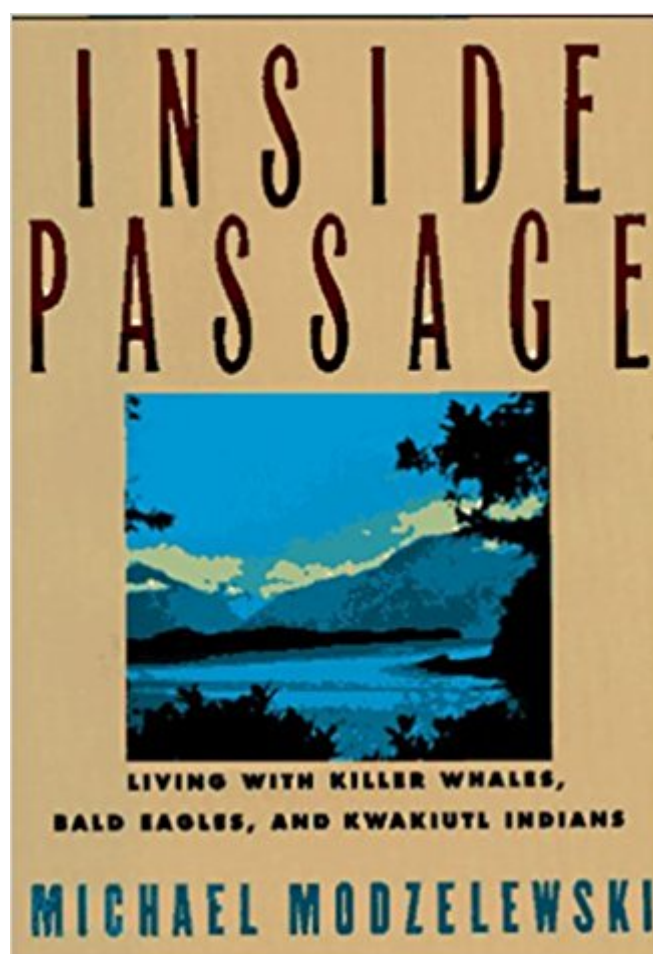


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Inside Passage: Living With Killer Whales, Bald Eagles, And Kwakiutl Indians



Synopsis

Inspired by Robinson Crusoe and Jack London, Michael Modzelewski, jettisoned all baggage accompanying life in the comfortable middle class and set out to find raw, unharnessed wilderness. He found it on Blackfish Sound ("Blackfish" is the Kwakiutl Indian word for the killer whale) in the Inside Passage, the rugged coastline between Seattle and Alaska. Leaving his home in Aspen, which had become a false Shangri-La for him, Modzelewski settled on a desolate island in the Inside Passage, a place which "after seducing you with beauty would shake you with fear. An unpredictable place that kept you always prepared, honed to the keen edge of life." Here he lived alone for months on end. Inside Passage describes his experiences in this unspoiled setting, where the sky is his ceiling, mountains are his walls, and physical challenges test him down to the marrow. He also forms unusual friendships with passing yachters, salmon fishermen, Kwakiutl Indians, loners, and the owner of the house he is staying at, Will Malloff, a man of oversized personality -- a healer, builder, woodsman, and thinker. Modzelewski writes with a love for nature and gentle humor about his interactions with the native animals (eagles, whales, wolves), local animals (cats, dogs, "tame" wild boars), and other settlers. Inside Passage is the powerful story of one man learning the ways of self-reliance in a soul-filled search through the northern wilderness.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dissatisfied with his unfocused life and seeking wilderness experience, Colorado freelance writer Modzelewski drifted west. In Vancouver, B.C., he met a larger-than-life character, Will Malloff, who invited him to his island paradise. Modzelewski spent 18 months on Swanson Island (3 miles long, 1

miles wide) in the Inside Passage between northern Vancouver Island and the mainland, renewing his bonds with the natural world and testing himself with severe physical challenges. In the winter months he was alone; spring and summer brought visitors--Malloff and his companion, fishermen, yachting parties. Modzelewski waxes ecstatic about the land- and seascape and wildlife; he enjoyed the company of Kwakiutl Indians and the loners who lived on neighboring islands. His story provides a fine vicarious adventure for readers who cherish the wilderness. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

YA-- For 18 months, Modzelewski followed his dream and lived on Swanson Island in the Inside Passage. Often alone, he experienced a close relationship with the wilderness and its creatures. His awe at the beauty and power of eagles is matched by his fury at finding those wounded by gunshot. He swam close enough to touch the backs of killer whales; he discovered that they distinguish between live music, which they like, and taped music, which they dislike. Throughout the narrative is woven respect for the rich traditions and myths of the native Kwakiutl Indians. Although most of the book recounts the author's experiences, his descriptions of the island and its occasional visitors are wonderful and provide a welcome change in focus. YAs who dream of the adventure of primitive living while matching wits with nature will enjoy this sojourn into the wild. --Judy Sokoll, Fairfax County Pub . Lib . , VACopyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I've traveled briefly through the inside passage to Alaska, both times overwhelmed by the immensity and rugged beauty of the landscape with its teeming wildlife. Michael Modzelewski does a good job of translating the experience of surviving and thriving in this incomparable wilderness for people like me who have seen the tip of the iceberg and yearn for more. I bought a copy of his book aboard a Princess Cruise to Alaska after hearing him speak. He speaks and writes poetically, mingling sensory experiences with scientific facts but even the facts are presented with a perspective that inspires respect and awe for nature's creatures. A great 'escape" book for city-weary readers.

Got this as a birthday gift for a friend. Saw Michael as part of the princess cruise on board enrichment lecture on inside passage cruise. The book came signed by Michael with the inscription "make life an adventure". It was great! Couldn't have been a more perfect gift giving memory of the cruise.

I discovered Michael on a recent Princess Cruise to Alaska. My first night on board I attended his lecture. Michael's story telling ability captured my attention and kept me enthralled for almost an hour. I eagerly anticipated his other lectures that week. After the final one I purchased his book "Inside Passage" which he autographed. What an adventure! Michael shares his experiences of living off the grid, in what is truly the last frontier, untouched by man. I heard Michael's voice as I read every line. His passion for the this beautiful mother earth and all her magnificent creatures is felt in every word. This is not just another book about the Inside Passage. It's a journey of a man discovering the wonders of Alaska but also discovering himself and the true meaning of what is really important in life. This is a wonderful read.

Fantastic book and heartwarming stories of the author's adventures in the wilds of Alaska inside passage. Modzelewski has a gift for describing every fiber of life through his exciting and mind boggling interactions with nature and wildlife. I was fortunate to cruise the inside passage in a luxurious fashion aboard a Princess cruise ship and was thrilled to have met the author on board who shared many stories of his adventures in such a delightful and humorous way. He made the Frontier come alive with every unimaginable way to awaken all our senses! This is a great book to read if you are planning to visit Alaska or just want to feel what it's like to be one with nature!

Having heard several of Michael's talks on a recent Alaskan cruise, I looked forward to reading of his first experiences living on an island on the Inside Passage. Michael has a way with words that paints a picture of his visions and emotions during an 18 month learning experience with nature as the teacher. His pure delight of really being free, the experience of sudden terror from unexpected changes in weather, observing and understanding the creatures all around and their place in our planet's life, and the genuine friendships of those other settlers that live in the wild, all make this a shared learning experience for the reader. It will be hard for you to put this book down once you begin to follow Michael's experiences and transformation. A great read!

In 2003, my wife and I accepted a long-standing friend's invitation to visit Alaska. We flew into Juneau and went fishing on a small boat. Our sense of what the earth is was changed in a heart beat. As we rounded the tip of Point Retreat and saw the mountain ranges on the west side of Lynn Canal, we realized that nature could overwhelm you in ways we had never imagined. Alaska is not just large, it is grand on the largest scale. Alaska holds so much nature, it is impossible to put it in some kind of clear organized place in your brain. It's too large, too robust, too varied and too

complex. But the area around Juneau is just a microcosm of Alaska and indeed of the whole region that reaches from Seattle to Anchorage. Traveling from Seattle north through the geographic wonder called the Inside Passage (or as Tom Straley calls it, "The Big Both Ways") to Alaska is a goal of many people, and, rightfully, it should be. My wife and I plan to make our first transit this year on the Alaska State Marine Highway (ferry system) from Bellingham to Juneau as we head back to the area around Juneau. As part of the preparation, I looked for books that would allow us to understand and appreciate in greater depth the area we would go through. Michael Modzelewski has created a master piece - an ode to the delicious diversity of the Inside Passage and the history and culture of the region and the people who live and lived there. The book is a picture book where the pictures are created by the prose of the author. He provides the reader with wonderful stories, sweet vignettes, true stories, vivid dreams, tempting glimpses, and fearful tales of what the Inside Passage is. We should be grateful for the masterpiece he has created to portray the masterpiece of the Inside Passage.

Just amazing and I so thoroughly enjoyed this true account of meeting the natural wildness of pure Alaska head on. Mike learned to love Alaska all the more for all the difficult challenges he met and was able to convey the almost holiness of his experiences. It is a beautifully written personal account and made me envious of his courageous conviction in seeking and finding the purity of Alaska's natural beauty. I bought this on a Princess cruise after hearing Mike speak about his experiences that led to the writing of this book. Mike brought Alaska to life for us after hearing his presentation. It meant so much to have met and heard Mike and then to read this wonderful account. I highly recommend this even if you have never been to Alaska. It is wonderful !! Marilyn Debbs

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