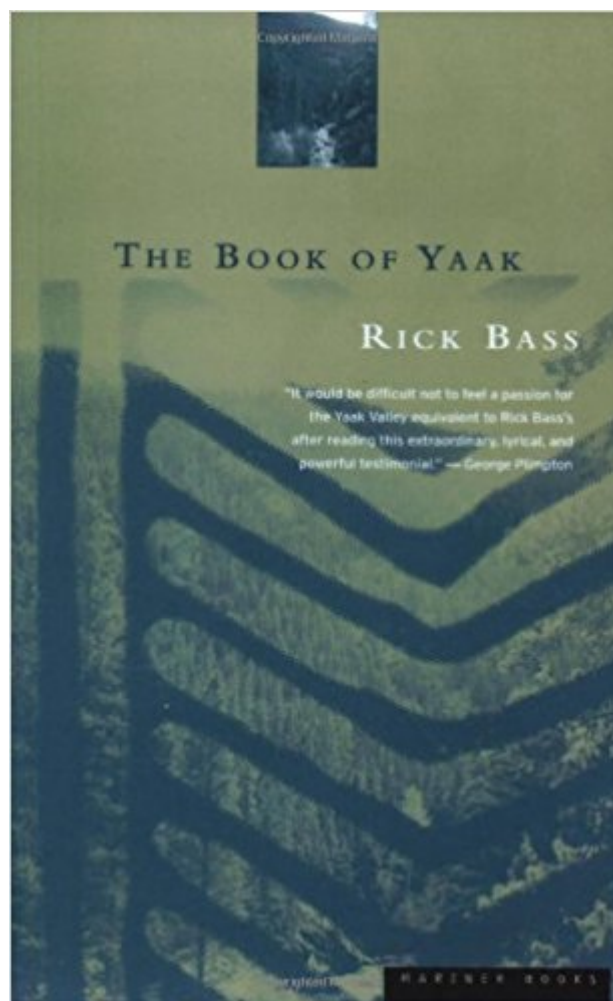


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The Book Of Yaak



Synopsis

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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Popular 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. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

There'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.

Great book, wonderful prose. Slightly preachy, but definitely worth reading.

Since I was born and raised in the Yaak I was particularly thrilled to read more of the history from another point of view.

Great story.

I worked in the Yaak for a summer and this book embodies my thoughts on the Yaak. It's a great book

A birthday gift to a new fan of Rick Bass' work. It arrived exactly on time for recipient's birthday..

An absolutely amazing conservation book. Rick Bass does a beautiful job of discussing the condition of a forested area in Montana called the Yaak Valley. This book really gets to me because there are so many places in North America that need help and the government isn't always willing to

listen or care because all they care about is the bottom dollar. I will definitely be reading more by Rick Bass in the future.

Rick Bass lives in the Yaak Valley of northwest Montana. He wasn't born there, but he came to love the place and has made it his home. The people of the valley make a small, isolated community, with only weak versions of the infrastructure most Americans expect such as roads, telephone service, and shopping opportunities. This book is a collection of essays, as short as one page long, talking about the Yaak. They are presented in no particular order that I could determine, but that's OK - - Bass doesn't really write essays, he writes poems that look like essays. The chapters provide lyrical accounts of his love of the valley, daily life there, political activism on its behalf, and the friendships he has in the valley. There are encounters with grizzly bears and politicians, the deaths and illnesses of friends, adventures with a fishing guide, and the pleasures of waiting for the mail. I find it difficult to describe the book further. Like the Yaak, it is, and it is good that it is.

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