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My Appalachian Trial II: Creaking Geezer, Hidden Flagon



Synopsis

Steve Adams, a retired, overweight, 61-year-old Brit, who had never hiked in his life, decided one day that he wanted an adventure. Not willing to settle for just any old adventure, he decided to hike the entire length of America's Appalachian Trail, a beguiling attraction for many hikers, both home-grown and from all corners of the globe. Stretching from Georgia to Maine, taking its travelers on a whimsical journey through national forests and parks, along ridges and over mountains, the A.T. is the longest hiking-only trail in the world. The Appalachian Trail is physically strenuous and emotionally taxing, involving a commitment of about six months to complete the entire 2,200 miles: only one in four of the people who start in Georgia will actually complete the hike. Steve was completely unprepared for the myriad challenges that the trail offered him, but took them on with gusto. *My Appalachian Trail II: Creaking Geezer, Hidden Flagon* takes up the story when Steve returns to the trail after his unplanned visit home. The reader shares his journey, walking alongside him as he falls constantly, laughs loudly, and observes wryly. You'll be cheering Steve on as he doggedly heads north in search of his destiny at the top of Mount Katahdin.

Book Information

File Size: 4982 KB

Print Length: 325 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1533181624

Publication Date: May 1, 2016

Sold by: Â Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01F2EMLYQ

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #72,662 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #8

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Customer Reviews

The 2nd of this series picks up where the first left off - and takes you through the rest of the trail all the way to the conclusion at Mt. Katahdin and ends with some personal observations and final thoughts. In between is a continuation of an interesting and talented writer's observations of hiking what many consider to be more than just a bucket list experience but a personal challenge that tests the hiker's skills, strength, mental toughness, and perseverance. It takes all of that, and then some. The writer spends some additional time in this edition introducing us to some of the characters he met with along the way, and how some of them are people that he hadn't seen for hundreds of miles along the Trail. And, I'll not spoil it for you about an important decision that he made going into Maine, but suffice it to say that the value of many of these characters become a lot more than just momentary contacts. If you read *My Appalachian Trail I: Three Weddings and A Sabbatical* you should. It lays a foundation for where this one picks up and how the writer got to this point. But, putting both in one book would have been WAY too much. After all, this writer is recalling and sharing his innermost thoughts about a hike of some 6 months and over 2,200 miles! I strongly recommend *My Appalachian Trail: Creaking Geezer, Hidden Flagon* as a companion for his first book, *My Appalachian Trail I: Three Weddings and A Sabbatical*.

Steve Adams, aka Mighty Blue, started writing his Appalachian Trail memoirs and soon found it had grown to 250,000 words. Ordinarily, this would be a warning sign of an amateur who simply does not know how to turn off the spigot. But thankfully, that's not the case with "Three Weddings and a Sabbatical" (volume 1) and "Creaking Geezer, Hidden Flagon" (volume 2; hilarious title). Adams not only possesses a clever British wit, but is a truly effective, entertaining, and informative writer. If you want to know what it's like to hike the AT, you won't go wrong reading Mighty Blue's account. I notice that some reviewers have objected to his weaving elements of his past and personal lives into the account of his hike. But honestly, once you've hiked the trail, you begin to understand how it has a way of bringing such introspection to the surface, and it's not at all out of place here, in my opinion. Those who (mistakenly, in my opinion) think it is somehow not integral to his hike can of course skip these more "domestic" bits, but I appreciated the author's candor. Remember, the two best books, or at least most successful, "about" long-distance hiking, Bryson's "A Walk in the Woods" and Cheryl Strayed's "Wild," are good *because* they are more than just another tedious, slightly glorified hiker journal (of which there are far, far too many). Steve Adams is funny, insightful, and full of honesty

about what it takes to hike the Appalachian Trail. If you want a taste of that experience, you can't go wrong with his two-volume memoir.

I appreciate that this is not a sequel in the true sense of the word but , nevertheless , he's done it - the sequel is even better than the first book . By this point , Steve's standards as a hiker , writer and human being are becoming very well honed . The AT has now got deeper into his skin than even that dog's teeth did and he recollects each significant moment of his journey with great clarity ; managing to tell his story in a thoroughly engaging manner bringing the varied and interesting characters of his fellow hikers to life along the way . A thoroughly enjoyable and entertaining read - I literally could not put this down and I feel like I have through hiked the whole trail with Steve (minus the resultant weight loss , sadly) .

An enjoyable description of Steve Adams' hike on the Appalachian trail. Steve does a good job of describing various aspects of the trail and the type of camaraderie that springs up amongst through hikers. An enjoyable, good description of the low points and high points of hiking the trail.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. It read both like a diary, journal and a good story. The descriptions of the trail, people that the writer met and places to stay made me almost forget the food binges and often bad smells along with the multiple falls, and lost toenails. This writer has more books and adventures in him that he hopefully will continue to share.

I gave volume I four stars, commenting that it was an enjoyable read but more a description than a story about the author's hike. Well, either he picked it up a notch or I tuned in to his story...probably both. This volume is amazingly well written (as was vol. I.) It captures not only the beauty and physical struggles of the hike but also the mystery of the mental and emotional transformation that occurred by the time he reached Katahdin. Among the best of the 10-12 AT thru-hike stories I've read.

Finished the 2nd half of the story, informative besides inspiring. It has given me some great ideas on places to day hike, and where to avoid. I cant imagine running into that hand over hand looking for foot holes kind of climbing. I love seeing how my friend grew as a person on this trip.

Received this book the same day as Trial I. This book is Trial II (or second volume) where Steve

continues his 2014 Appalachian Trail NOBO thru hike. After reading Trial I the day it arrived, I read this book the following day. Steve's style had me feeling as he must have as he experienced his ups and downs of a physical, emotional, and spiritual walk from Georgia to Maine. His including his love of sports, relations with his wife and times of consulting work made Steve more than just a hiker. This book and the first volume are highly recommended and I would buy again if Steve publishes another hiking book.

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