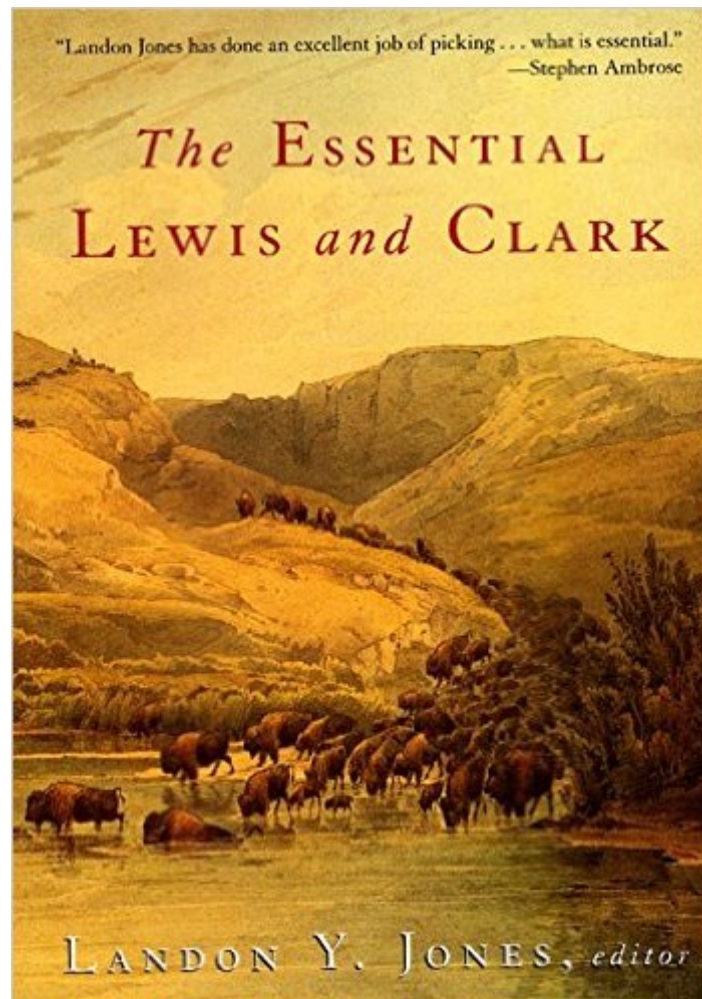


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The Essential Lewis And Clark (Lewis & Clark Expedition)



Synopsis

The journals of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark remain the single most important document in the history of American exploration. Through these tales of adventure, edited and annotated by American Book Award nominee Landon Jones, we meet Indian peoples and see the Great Plains, the Rocky Mountains, and western rivers the way Lewis and Clark first observed them -- majestic, pristine, uncharted, and awe-inspiring.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Are you a Lewis and Clark buff, just starting out? You've read "Undaunted Courage" by Stephen Ambrose, and perhaps a couple other Lewis and Clark books. It's time to read the journals, but you are daunted by the thought of all that early 19th century wordiness, spelling and such? Me too. This book is great. It's just what it says it is. All the good stuff from Lewis and Clark's copious journals, all the highlights, well edited. The value of this book is as a starting place, perhaps. It's short enough to be read easily over a few days. Like all good introductions, then, if you want more you know where to look, and you'll now know what to expect. Landon Jones provides all the accessibility; Lewis and Clark still provide the wonder.

I have the full Lewis and Clark Journals on my Kindle Fire but they are a bit tedious to read, as the language is archaic and they tend to get fairly lengthy for many stories. The edited version in The Essential Lewis and Clark book is much more readable. A problem that I had is that it has no maps -

which are key to visualizing their expedition. I found that there are ample resources on-line including detailed maps, especially those at Univ. of Nebraska, Lincoln. I found that the editor did a great job in picking key part of the expedition to include in Essentials. The End Notes are also very helpful. I very much enjoyed reading this book, even though I had previously read a good bit about the Lewis and Clark Expedition and even toured some of the areas where they traveled. Another thing I found useful was to use the "Search" capability in my Kindle for PC version of the Journals to find the detailed area for a particular page in the Essential book. i.e. The brief account on Page 37 of the Essential book is covered in great detail at location 5011 in my Kindle PC version. If one searches for "campfire" the "Results" show every location where that word occurs in the entire Journals.

Landon Jones has extracted the most essential parts of the Lewis and Clark Diaries. This is good news for us, as the diaries are incredibly long, hard to read, and focused on detailed accounts of botany, geography, meteorology, and other requests of President Jefferson. We hear about a full range of relations with the natives. Generally the Indians traded fairly and were helpful to our heroes. In the west, this was less the case, Lewis & Clark only survived a few encounters due to the credible threat of their US Army issued superior firepower. Our heroes also relate everything else that happened, fortunately Clark was an experienced medical man, familiar with treating social diseases common on the frontier. Regarding their diet, I don't even like eating pork, yet these hardy figures subsisted on dog and horse. They had their lucky days when bear, deer, and salmon were handy, but more often than not, it was a dinner of roots and less desirable meats. Lewis penned a letter to Jefferson upon the return to St. Louis. He was a bit optimistic in saying that the transcontinental route was a competitor to established water routes. That was not true for another 60 years until the railroads were built. This is a fun book to read, even better to listen to.

President Thomas Jefferson commissioned Meriwether Lewis & William Clark to study the land recently obtained through the Louisiana Purchase & find a pathway from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean. Reading about perhaps one of the most important pieces of history leaves one with a great deal of pride for our forefathers & those that aided in establishing the United States.

Truly it is a great book. It is easy to read and lets one feel they are on the journey with Lewis and Clark. Having just visited the city of Astoria, Oregon, the book held a lot of interest for me and my husband. Well done to Mr. Jones for writing this book. Linda Walmer

Hard to understand Clark's writings. Difficult to figure out the details of their journey. If you want to know and understand the actual geography they traversed you need another book. Their writings are fascinating but it's hard to figure where they are exactly.

Landon Y. Jones has managed to condense the journal entries of the members of the expedition of 'the Corps of Volunteers for North Western Discovery' [the Lewis & Clark Expedition] into a small volume which belongs on the shelves of anyone interested in the journey from Camp Wood River to the Pacific. Having participated in numerous living history programs from 2001 through the Bicentennial, and up to the present, I can honestly say that I refer to THE ESSENTIAL LEWIS AND CLARK each and everytime I prepare to travel to an event! I recently listened to the unabridged CD version of the book on my way to Oregon to take part in the L&C Saltmakers' Encampment in Seaside [a first person salt making adventure which runs from Friday through Sunday]. I recommend this book to any individual seeking a short, but thorough version of the captains journals during their party's passage across the unexplored reaches of the West! A fine little book in every regard!!

I really like Lewis and Clark, if you want a very direct and to the point rendition of their journals this is it. There are no accompanying maps, graphs, anything to help you understand and fulfill the data put forth by the explorers. This book has no pictures, and is composed entirely of the cut-down portions of their journals. There was a decent amount of interaction for the journals, and included some harrowing tales of the travelers running into Indians.

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