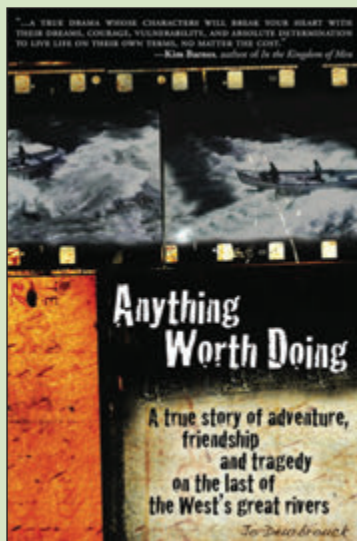


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Jo Deurbrouck



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The two raft guides at the book's heart don't just love wilderness and run big whitewater. They wrestle with risk; with their friendship; with the degraded beauty of dammed rivers; and with the poverty nearly every committed adventurer accepts.

Deurbrouck is a gifted writer and a meticulous researcher. She also draws on her own experience as a 12-year wilderness whitewater guide. The narrative that results is thrilling, heartbreaking, and utterly believable.

Anything Worth Doing tells the true story of two men whose friendship grows from their shared love of rivers. "Anything worth doing is worth overdoing" becomes their shared motto, and it leads them into a series of journeys that span a decade. Some are idyllic, like the 900-mile, month-long sojourn in a handmade sailing dory down the Salmon, Snake and Columbia rivers to the Pacific. Other adventures seem merely strange, like the grueling marathon the men called the '5X5'—five 100-mile whitewater river segments run in five consecutive days.

One heart wrenching day the odds catch up with them. Their dory capsizes in icy, flood-stage waters. Before the men's desperate swim ends, one will face the fact that, although he has never failed at anything important, he cannot save his friend.

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