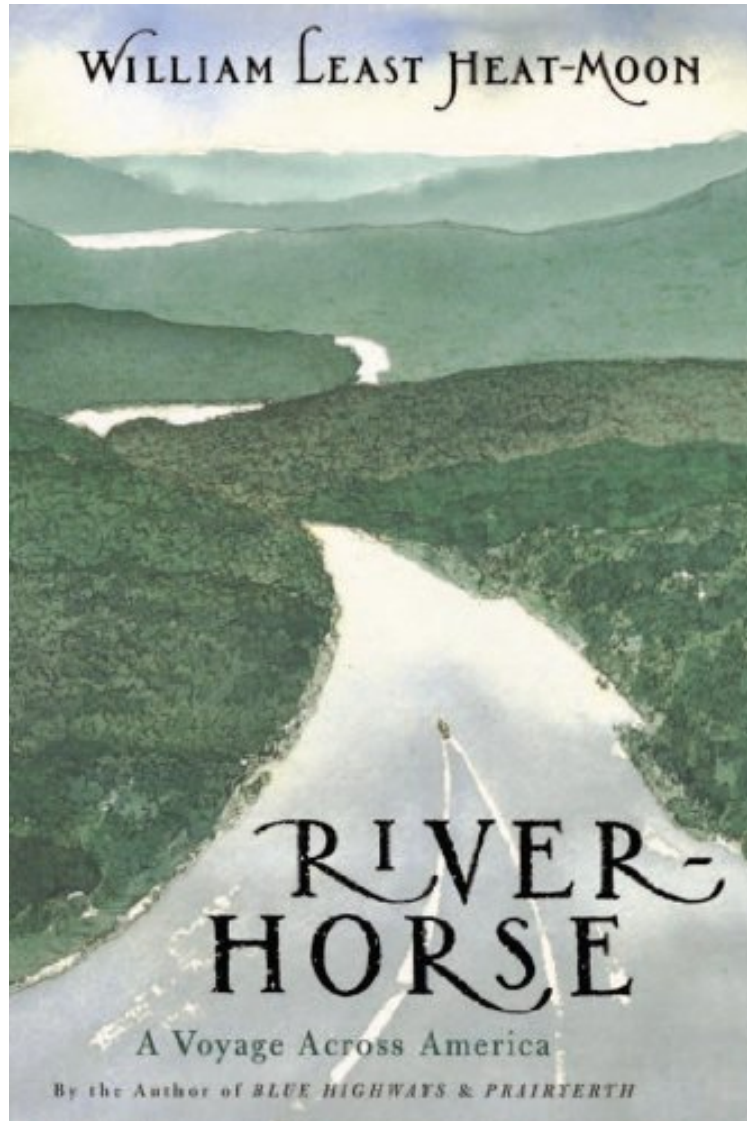


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## River-Horse: A Voyage Across America

Von William Least Heat-Moon

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**Von William Least Heat-Moon : River-Horse: A Voyage Across America** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised River-Horse: A Voyage Across America:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Least-Moon Does It AgainVon Jack BeaverDoes it again, outstanding book by the author of Blue Highways, excellent wordsmith, takes a rather dull trip and makes it interesting. Could have been a little more technical for us boat people and his refferences to the Lewis-Clark journals were a little out of sync. This book is so much better than PrairyErth, and close to Highways. I could recommend to anybody and it will become an American classic. Will be looking

forward to his next one.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Boring, Poorly Written, and Self-Indulgent Von A Lover of Good Books I find it hard to believe that the reviews on this page refer to the same book I read--or should say, TRIED to read. I abandoned the effort about three quarters of the way through the book after encountering a page of Ulysses parody that seemed to mark Least Heat Moon's decision to stop even trying to craft serious prose. By then the only thing that had kept me reading was the hours I'd wasted getting that far, in the hope that eventually something good would turn up. I was wrong. The book itself is nothing but a marketing concept beaten into the ground: let's take a boat ride from coast to coast. The focus is relentlessly on the Author's thoughts and you will learn very little about the thousands of miles of America he crosses. At the start, the author gives his companion a cutesy nickname instead of a real name. This gives us a hint that there will be no attempt to get to know character as the story unfolds. The few people met on the journey are treated as stereotypes. In the place of information or character development the author treats us to horrifying amounts of pretty writing, of the sort that calls for serious editing. I kept reading paragraphs out loud to my own (also unnamed) companion because they were so involuted and pretentious that they sounded like parody. If this is your idea of a great adventure, I'd suggest buying a kayak and hitting your nearest local stream or pond. You'll learn more in 20 minutes that way than you will plowing through this turgid would-be masterwork.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Just Okay Von R. T. Highsmith I loved Blue Highways and Prairyerth, but found River-Horse to be just okay. Every night when I picked up the book to read, I briefly considered putting it back down and starting something else. But I did finish it, and am probably the richer for it. I most appreciated the descriptions of the country as seen from the water and, yes, I guarantee that all readers will begin fantasizing about a long river cruise. The interweave of local, national, and natural history that is Least Heat Moon's hallmark was again very enjoyable. So what's my problem? The author's admission near the very end of his narrative that this river voyage has probably cost him another marriage (I believe it is near the beginning of Blue Highways that we learn he has just separated from an earlier wife) made me wonder if I'd found the source of my ambivalence about the book. Clearly, there was an untold story here, and maybe more fueled his voyage than a simple desire to "mess about in boats" with a bunch of learned good old boys across the length of the nation. It's not that I'd have preferred page after page of detail about his personal problems, but more a feeling that he'd not been particularly honest with the reader. It made me wonder if, unlike many "travel" writers, Least Heat Moon voyages to avoid self discovery.

Kurzbeschreibung In RIVER-HORSE, the preeminent chronicler of American back roads -- who has given us the classics BLUE HIGHWAYS and PRAIRYERTH -- recounts his singular voyage on American waters from sea to sea. Along the route, he offers a lyrical and ceaselessly fascinating shipboard perspective on the country's rivers, lakes, canals, and towns. Brimming with history, drama, humor, and wisdom, RIVER-HORSE belongs in the pantheon of American travel literature. In his most ambitious journey ever, Heat-Moon sets off aboard a small boat he named Nikawa ("river horse" in Osage) from the Atlantic at New York Harbor in hopes of entering the Pacific near Astoria, Oregon. He and his companion, Pilotis, struggle to cover some five thousand watery miles -- more than any other cross-country river traveler has ever managed -- often following in the wakes of our most famous explorers, from Henry Hudson to Lewis and Clark. En route, the voyagers confront massive floods, submerged rocks, dangerous weather, and their own doubts about whether they can complete the trip. But the hard days yield up incomparable pleasures: strangers generous with help and eccentric tales, landscapes unchanged since Sacagawea saw them, riverscapes flowing with a lively past, and the growing belief that efforts to protect our lands and waters are beginning to pay off. And, throughout its course, the expedition enjoys coincidences so breathtaking as to suggest the intervention of a divine and witty Providence. Teeming with humanity and high adventure, Heat-Moon's account is an unsentimental and original arteriogram of our nation at the edge of the millennium. Masterly in its own right, RIVER-HORSE, when taken with BLUE HIGHWAYS and PRAIRYERTH, forms the capstone of a peerless and timeless trilogy.