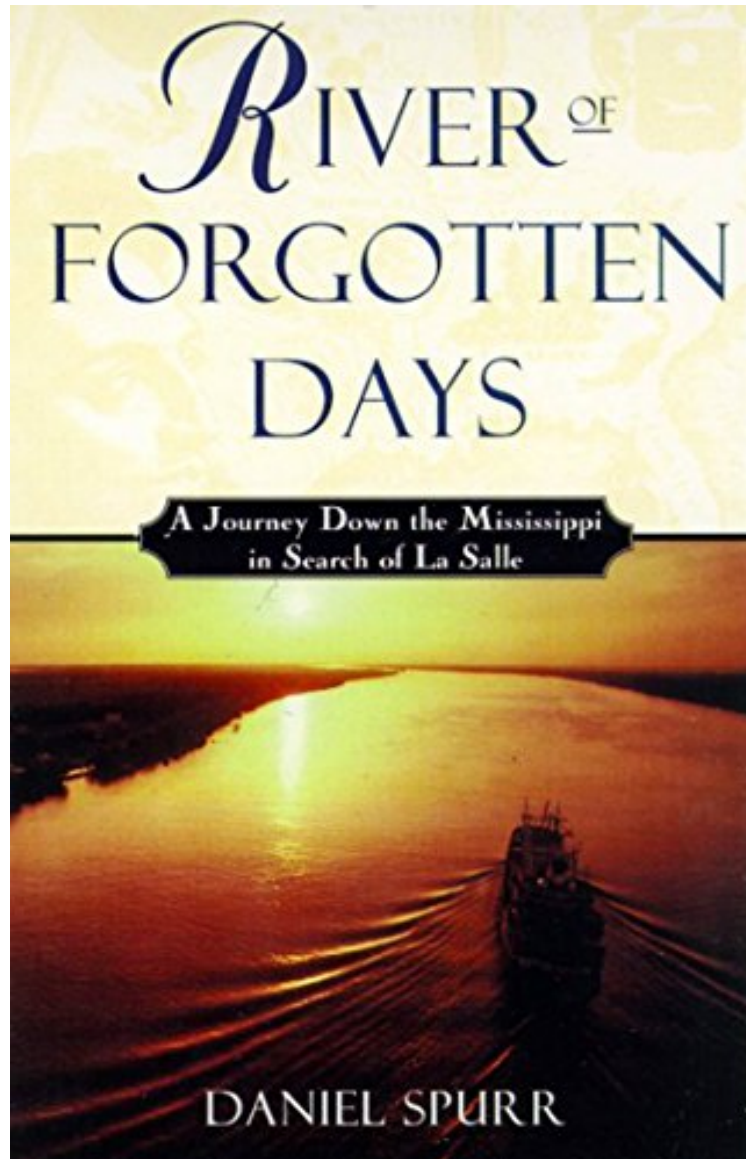


(Free read ebook) River of Forgotten Days: A Journey Down the Mississippi in Search of La Salle

River of Forgotten Days: A Journey Down the Mississippi in Search of La Salle

Von Daniel Spurr

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Produktinformation Veröffentlicht am: 2015-04-07Erscheinungsdatum: 2015-04-07File Name: B00UG7MWQ2 | File size: 26.Mb

Von Daniel Spurr : River of Forgotten Days: A Journey Down the Mississippi in Search of La Salle before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised River of Forgotten Days: A Journey Down the Mississippi in Search of La Salle:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An

attempt to combine North American history with family fun Von John Eastman (Eastman616@aol.com) This book is as much, or more, of a parental odyssey than a historical one. What information Spurr presents on LaSalle and current thinking and research about this fascinating French explorer is solid and intriguing. Far less engaging, at least to this reader, is Spurr's own family story. Long, dreary episodes tell us considerably more than we want to know about father, mother, and children (his wife mercifully escapes our scrutiny); he even quotes at length some of the clever little bedtime stories he makes up for his son. While all of this wordage is significant to him, no doubt -- and even mildly interesting, perhaps, to other daddies and mommies -- it provides a less than enchanting gift to the general reader. The book belongs on the parents' shelf of "what I did with my kids last summer" rather than with serious historical travelogs. One comes away with the impression that the relatively minor focus on LaSalle emerged as an incidental by-product of a family jaunt. Also, Spurr is not an especially gifted writer, making some of his too-frequent, ruminative, pretentiously insightful passages less than crystalline at best, murky and obscure at worst. Unfortunately, his prose comes alive only when he's discussing his boat or his kids. We learn precious little about the mighty river itself, its dwellers and endless permutations. Spurr's bankside activities mostly revolve around acquiring fuel for his boat. Still, Spurr's book is worth reading for its useful gleanings about current discoveries relating to LaSalle -- one must just tread a lot of water in order to find the good stuff. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. River of Forgettable Days Von Jacqueline Smith I want to be sympathetic to an established writer, so John Eastman's review from Jan, 99 sums it up for me in every detail. I ate up the History in his book, which was my reason for reading, but the kid stuff drove me crazy (I've got some of my own), and the writing, exclusive of the historical part, was bad. I think all poor Dan Spurr needed was a good honest editor.

Kurzbeschreibung A poignant voyage of discovery down the great Mississippi. Praised by such authors as John Barth, and George V. Higgins, Dan Spurr's gently powerful memoir, *Steered by the Falling Stars*, captured the hearts of readers with its story of death, rebirth, and redemption and its evocative description of life under sail. Now, Spurr takes us on another adventure, a voyage into not only the heartland of contemporary America but also back into the rough and ready days of exploration and discovery 250 years ago. Following the trail of the enigmatic French explorer Rene de La Salle, Spurr takes his seven-year-old son Steve and his grown daughter Adriana down the Mississippi from Chicago to New Orleans in the rundown, underpowered Belle. Throughout the journey, the juxtaposition of modern America on the river's banks and the untamed wilds of La Salle's day, as revealed through journals and historical documents, illuminates the changes in the land and its people over the intervening centuries. The inexorable flow of Spurr's clean and honest prose mirrors that of this greatest of American rivers. The voices of the river's denizens and the keen observations of the author's young and wide-eyed shipmates take us deep into the heart of an ever-changing American landscape. de The Mississippi, winding brown spine of America, provides the backbone of this elegiac book by writer and boating enthusiast Daniel Spurr. In simple, forthright language, his *River of Forgotten Days* intertwines the bittersweet tale of Rene-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle--who, in the 17th century, became the first European to navigate the length of the Big Muddy--with the author's own adventures on the Mississippi in a homely but durable fishing boat named Pearl. Much like the river, Spurr's prose flows at its own pace, shifting rhythmically between the historical facts (so far as they are known) of LaSalle's journey and Spurr's own pilgrimage, born of a childhood fascination with both La Salle and the untamed "pre-American" wilderness that seduced--and often destroyed--early European explorers. Accompanied by his seven-year-old son (whom he hopes to wean, if only temporarily, from his Game Boy), Spurr searches out touchstones of La Salle's epic voyage. Some are unspoiled enough to induce reveries of ghostly wolf packs and buffalo-darkened plains; most are soulless suburban outposts offering only cracked asphalt and empty beer cans. All is not lost, however; *River of Forgotten Days* brings to life a true American icon, a still-powerful river where, despite levees stretching from Illinois to the Delta, a whiff of pre-America remains for those who care to seek it out. And, especially important for those of us who live far from the mighty Mississippi, Spurr's book includes photographs and illustrations of both the river and the historical sites and people associated with it. -- Rebecca Gleason Kurzbeschreibung A poignant voyage of discovery down the great Mississippi. Praised by such authors as John Barth, and George V. Higgins, Dan Spurr's gently powerful memoir, *Steered by the Falling Stars*, captured the hearts of readers with its story of death, rebirth, and redemption and its evocative description of life under sail. Now, Spurr takes us on another adventure, a voyage into not only the heartland of contemporary America but also back into the rough and ready days of exploration and discovery 250 years ago. Following the trail of the enigmatic French explorer Rene de La Salle, Spurr takes his seven-year-old son Steve and his grown daughter Adriana down the Mississippi from Chicago to New Orleans in the rundown, underpowered Belle. Throughout the journey, the juxtaposition of modern America on the river's banks and the untamed wilds of La Salle's day, as revealed through journals and historical documents, illuminates the changes in the land and its people over the intervening centuries. The inexorable flow of Spurr's clean and honest prose mirrors that of this greatest of American rivers. The voices of the river's denizens and the keen observations of the author's young and wide-eyed shipmates take us deep into the heart of

an ever-changing American landscape.