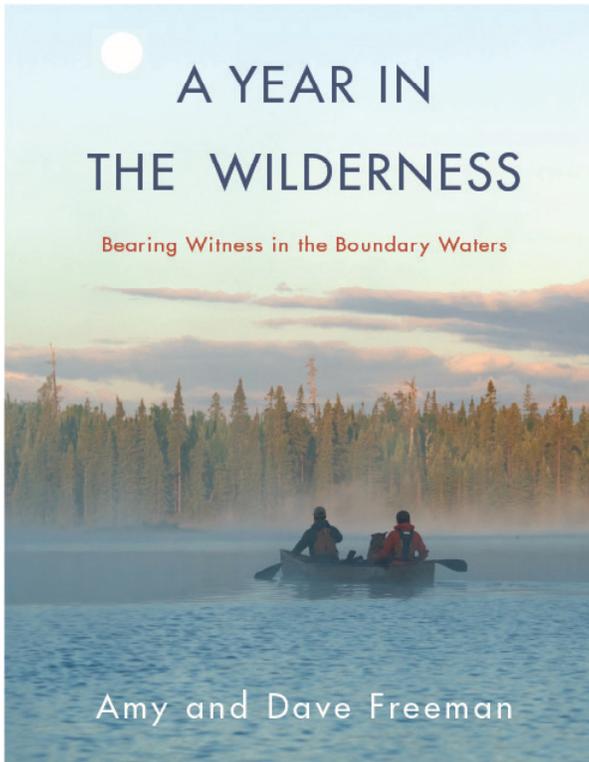


A YEAR IN THE WILDERNESS

Bearing Witness in the Boundary Waters

By Amy and Dave Freeman

A BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED ACCOUNT OF A YEAR IN THE BOUNDARY WATERS, FROM NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC'S 2014 ADVENTURERS OF THE YEAR



The Boundary Waters—with over twelve hundred miles of canoe routes—is one of our national treasures, yet their existence has been consistently threatened. When Amy and Dave Freeman learned of copper nickel mining in the area's watershed, they decided to take action. They would speak on behalf of the Boundary Waters. And they would do it by spending a year in the wilderness.

This book tells the story of that year in northern Minnesota. In visceral, immediate language and gorgeous photos, the Freemans show us the value of wilderness and why we must protect it. We hear loons whistling softly under a moonrise. We taste lobster mushrooms cooked over a fire. We watch a pine marten stalking a hare through winter's first snowfall. We linger, reverently, at the edges of a silent lake after other campers have gone home.

With the magic—and urgent message behind it—that has brought an international audience to the Freemans' cause, *A Year in the Wilderness* is a rousing cry of witness activism and a stunning tribute to this special region.

AMY AND DAVE FREEMAN are the authors of *A Year in the Wilderness*, a project chronicling their yearlong adventure in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness to protect the Boundary Waters from proposed sulfide-ore copper mining. The Freemans' expeditions have taken them over thirty thousand miles by canoe, kayak, and dogsled through some of the world's wildest places, from the Amazon to the Arctic. *National Geographic* named them Adventurers of the Year in 2014 and their images, videos, and articles been published by a wide range of media sources from the CBC, NBC, and FOX to the *Chicago Tribune*, *National Geographic*, *Outside*, *Backpacker*, *Canoe and Kayak*, and Minnesota Public Radio. They also run the Wilderness Classroom, an educational nonprofit organization that introduces children to wild places and unique cultures.

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PRAISE FOR A YEAR IN THE WILDERNESS

“Through evocative personal narrative and nature photography, the Freemans, spouses and educators, beautifully chronicle a yearlong journey, beginning in fall, of canoeing and dogsledding through Minnesota’s Boundary Waters ... Gorgeous color photgrahs focus on the human experience of being in the wilderness and augment a novel work that should draw attention to the plight of the Boundary Waters.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

“For 365 days in 2015 and 2016, the Freemans lived in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, paddling a canoe or towing a toboggan from campsite to campsite. They fell through the ice. They were trailed by wolves. They drank from the lakes. Mostly, the bore witness.”

—*Star Tribune*

“The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is among our nation’s great natural treasures. It is also fragile, and increasingly threatened by the prospect of sulfide-ore copper mining. At this moment in our history, when calls are growing to privatize public lands and weaken national parks, adventurers Amy and Dave Freeman spent a year in the Boundary Waters, experiencing its singular beauty and advocating for its preservation. **In this extraordinary book, they have done us all an invaluable service, offering a wonderfully compelling testimony for the value of wild places and the creatures who inhabit them.** I urge you to read it, and then to join the Freemans in advocating for the preservation of the Boundary Waters.”

—**Vice President Walter Mondale**

“Recounting their adventure in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Amy and Dave Freeman offer a compelling tale about the beauty as well as the brutal challenges of living a year in this northern wilderness—one of our nation’s very first areas protected by the Wilderness Act of 1964. Their first-hand observations about the wild, the land ethic, and threats to this natural heritage build on a long tradition. **Exemplifying a new generation of outdoors writer-adventurers, the Freemans infuse excitement and energy into the wilderness canon crafted by Mardy and Olaus Murie, Sigurd Olson, and other champions in earlier generations who have done so much to protect our wild places by describing them with a keen eye and a passionate heart.**”

—**Jamie Williams, President, The Wilderness Society**

“Here’s the story of a great adventure in one of the planet’s most gorgeous wildernesses—and with high stakes at risk in a fight to stave off a truly gross assault on its integrity. **So many reasons to read this book!**”

—**Bill McKibben, author of *Wandering Home***

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