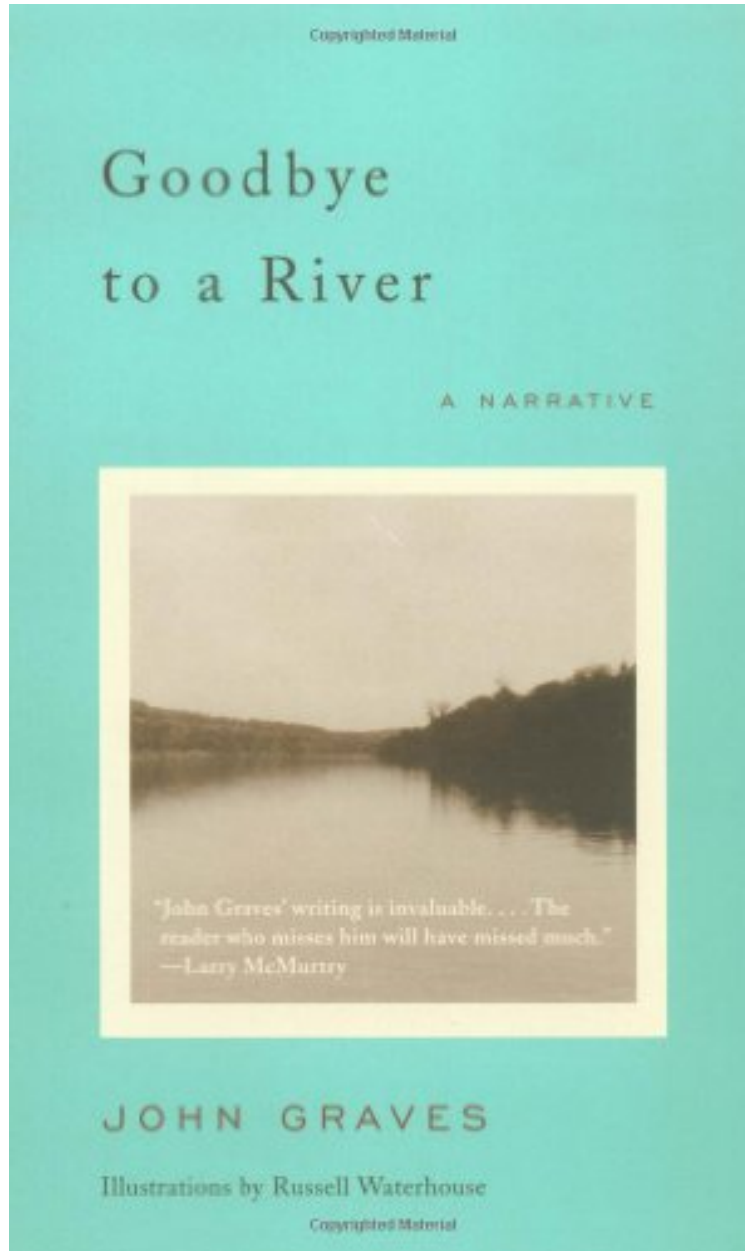


## Goodbye to a River: A Narrative

*John Graves*

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**John Graves : Goodbye to a River: A Narrative** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Goodbye to a River: A Narrative:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Goodbye to a LifestyleBy BlasterMasterJohn Graves will eventually

be remembered as a 20th century Mark Twain. A through and through Texan, but with an unusual sensitivity to nuance and nature, capable of capturing in words sentiments that move and inspire the reader. I once complained to Texas Monthly magazine that they were not publishing enough of his work and much to my surprise, an assistant editor contacted me and arranged for me to meet Mr. Graves at a book signing event. I was not disappointed as a somewhat wizened, sun-burned, grey-eyed meow while offering his gnarled hand. I related to him how as a youngster I too had traveled down a favorite "creek" that was soon to be lost under the flood waters of a new dam. He listened carefully and muttered about progress destroying nature. I left with his signature and warm wishes, and have read everything he has published. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good reading. By Ruth Jones Not the kind of book I usually read, but I'm soon going on the Brazos River and had heard about this book. The author writes in a conversational, sometimes cowboy sort of style, about his trip down the Brazos River and camping out of his canoe. He interjects a lot of stories from the days of the Comanches and pioneers. It's very interesting to hear about a particular skirmish that occurred near the spot that you're going to visit. Very colorful. Good reading. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Texas Historian and Adventurer. By J Cook John Graves was a Texas writer with a connection to its history and the people of the State. Goodbye to a River provides history and creates a feeling of the value of the Brazos River including the prospective loss to be experienced when the waters long free were expected to be impounded by two dams. One was ultimately built, but John Graves provides a window to the native Indians that possess the area, the characters and adventurers that formed the North Texas ranches and the quiet river trip providing an opportunity for enjoyment of it all. A good book.

In the 1950s, a series of dams was proposed along the Brazos River in north-central Texas. For John Graves, this project meant that if the stream's regimen was thus changed, the beautiful and sometimes brutal surrounding countryside would also change, as would the lives of the people whose rugged ancestors had eked out an existence there. Graves therefore decided to visit that stretch of the river, which he had known intimately as a youth. Goodbye to a River is his account of that farewell canoe voyage. As he braves rapids and fatigue and the fickle autumn weather, he muses upon old blood feuds of the region and violent skirmishes with native tribes, and retells wild stories of courage and cowardice and deceit that shaped both the river's people and the land during frontier times and later. Nearly half a century after its initial publication, Goodbye to a River is a true American classic, a vivid narrative about an exciting journey and a powerful tribute to a vanishing way of life and its ever-changing natural environment.

John Graves's writing is invaluable. . . . The reader who misses Graves will have missed much. --Larry McMurtry As you read, you have the feeling that the whole colorful, brutal tapestry of the Lone Star State is being unrolled for you out of the biography of this one stream. The Atlantic Monthly Graves' originality and flair turn this local scene and regional lore into an honest and powerfully evocative picture of frontier life anywhere. The Chicago Sunday Tribune One of the most pleasing books I've ever read. I love the way it weaves together remote history, not so remote history, present events, and landscape. Elizabeth Marshall Thomas, author of The Hidden Life of Dogs From the Publisher 7 1.5-hour cassettes From the Inside Flap In the 1950s, a series of dams was proposed along the Brazos River in north-central Texas. For John Graves, this project meant that if the stream's regimen was thus changed, the beautiful and sometimes brutal surrounding countryside would also change, as would the lives of the people whose rugged ancestors had eked out an existence there. Graves therefore decided to visit that stretch of the river, which he had known intimately as a youth. Goodbye to a River" is his account of that farewell canoe voyage. As he braves rapids and fatigue and the fickle autumn weather, he muses upon old blood feuds of the region and violent skirmishes with native tribes, and retells wild stories of courage and cowardice and deceit that shaped both the river's people and the land during frontier times and later. Nearly half a century after its initial publication, Goodbye to a River is a true American classic, a vivid narrative about an exciting journey and a powerful tribute to a vanishing way of life and its ever-changing natural environment.