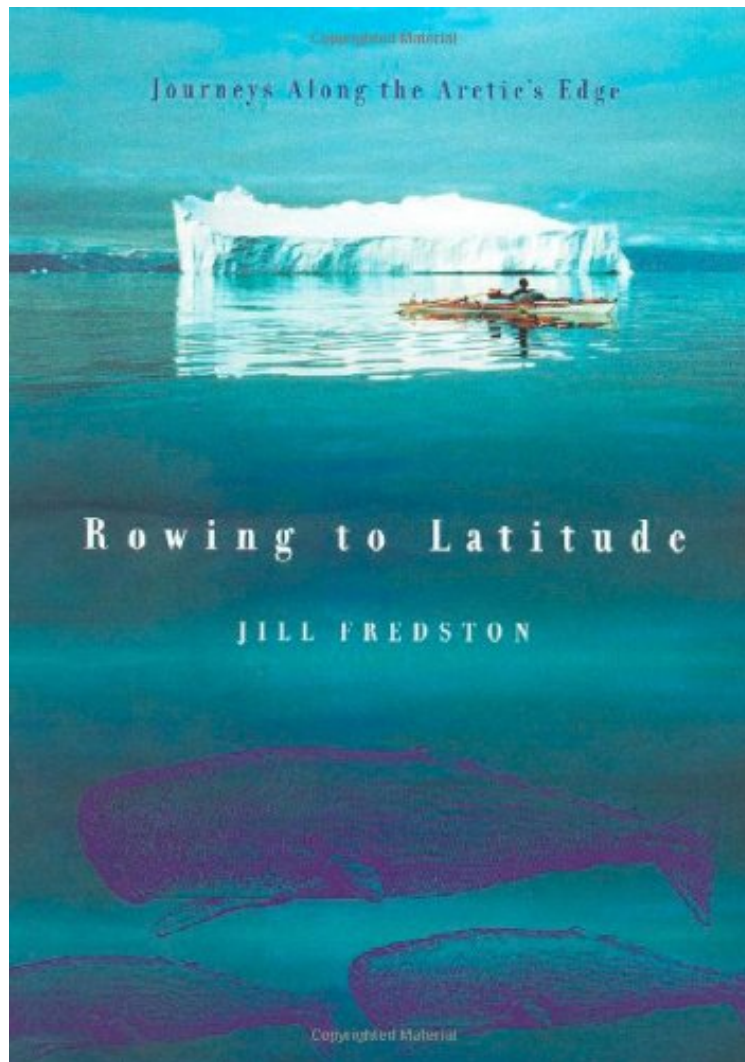


(Mobile pdf) Rowing to Latitude: Journeys Along the Arctic's Edge

## Rowing to Latitude: Journeys Along the Arctic's Edge

*Jill Fredston*

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**Jill Fredston : Rowing to Latitude: Journeys Along the Arctic's Edge** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rowing to Latitude: Journeys Along the Arctic's Edge:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This book is amazing and inspiringBy AshesThis book is amazing and inspiring. It is one of my favorite reads and I have bought it multiple times to give as gifts to friends.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great ReadBy Susan GorrieThis book was a great read. I especially enjoyed learning about the people they met on their journeys. It is very engaging book, keeps you interested and her descriptions of the landscape and the rowing makes you feel like you are there.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Rowing for adventureBy Steve PurvinsA well written adventure book. Filled with accounts of the Arctic's breathtaking beauty, interesting inhabitants, and interspersed with details about the authors 'off-adventure' life.

Two by sea: A couple rows the wild coasts of the far north Jill Fredston has traveled more than twenty thousand miles of the Arctic and sub-Arctic-backwards. With her ocean-going rowing shell and her husband, Doug Fesler, in a small boat of his own, she has disappeared every summer for years, exploring the rugged shorelines of Alaska, Canada, Greenland, Spitsbergen, and Norway. Carrying what they need to be self-sufficient, the two of them have battled mountainous seas and hurricane-force winds, dragged their boats across jumbles of ice, fended off grizzlies and polar bears, been serenaded by humpback whales and scrutinized by puffins, and reveled in moments of calm. As Fredston writes, these trips are "neither a vacation nor an escape, they are a way of life." Rowing to Latitude is a lyrical, vivid celebration of these northern journeys and the insights they inspired. It is a passionate testimonial to the extraordinary grace and fragility of wild places, the power of companionship, the harsh but liberating reality of risk, the lure of discovery, and the challenges and joys of living an unconventional life.

From Publishers Weekly In this lyrical look at rowing some of the world's most isolated and pristine coasts, Fredston focuses as much on her personal experience and her relationship with her husband, Doug Fesler, as she does on their actual journeys. The two avalanche experts, researchers and rescue trainers canoe the Arctic and sub-Arctic coastlines of Alaska, Canada, Greenland, Norway and Sweden for three months out of each year. They travel together but in separate canoes: an apt metaphor for their marriage. An avid rower since childhood, Fredston ultimately landed in Alaska, drawn by its possibility and wildness. There she met Fesler, the state's leading avalanche authority. They worked and rowed together, and eventually fell in love. Fredston ably describes both the big picture the coastline, encounters with polar bears, the high-stakes game of second-guessing storms and tides and the details of their travels. Her description of the physical act of rowing is rapturous, even sensual: "Sculling is the closest I'll ever come to being a ballerina, to creating visual music." Fredston seems less at ease relating her mother's battle with cancer, near the book's end. Still, the book soars. "Wilderness rowing is far more than sport to me; it has been a conduit to know and trust myself," Fredston explains. "It is my way of being, of thinking, of seeing. In the process, rowing has evolved from something I do to some way that I am. Figuratively and literally I have spent years rowing to latitude." A must-read for armchair travelers, as well as a close and loving look at an intimate relationship. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Growing up in a house on the waters of Long Island, Fredston started rowing at the age of ten, when she got her first rowboat. She and her husband, Doug Fesler, are avalanche experts and codirectors of the Alaska Mountain Safety Center, but during the summer months they explore the desolate reaches of the North, traveling under their own power in oceangoing skulls and kayaks. This is the story of their 20,000-mile water journeys through Alaska, Canada, Greenland, Spitsbergen, and Norway. The pair sees the world pass by in reverse as they row, backwards, down remote rivers and along barren, rugged shorelines. They travel along many of the same routes that Jonathan Waterman detailed in *Arctic Crossing* (LJ 4/15/01), but Fredston focuses more on the trip and only respectfully mentions contacts with the indigenous people and their culture. Like Waterman, the couple encounters fierce storms, ever-present mosquitoes, and abundant wildlife, but Fredston maintains that it is worth facing all this adversity in order to see and experience the natural beauty of the North. Enjoyable and well written, this first book is sure to be popular in public libraries. John Kenny, San Francisco P.L. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Among the leading avalanche specialists in North America, Fredston and her husband, Doug Fesler, use the proceeds of their work to pursue their first love, rowing in a motorless bliss along the Arctic coastlines. This book started innocently enough--as an annual newsletter to the couple's friends. Often, the narrative flits from subject to subject with the disjointedness of a newsletter--but, then, adventures in the wilderness happen disjointedly. The author, no matter the trouble--bears pawing at her tent at night, storms causing her small boat to spin around in circles--seems to suffer from terminal optimism. The reader waits in vain for fear or terror to show its head. Consequently, some of the natural drama of these travels is lightened. For lives that are solitary, poor, nasty, and brutish, there are good reasons to make these treks. But for those who can't manage to do so, volumes such as this one are the next best things to being there. Allen Weakland Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved