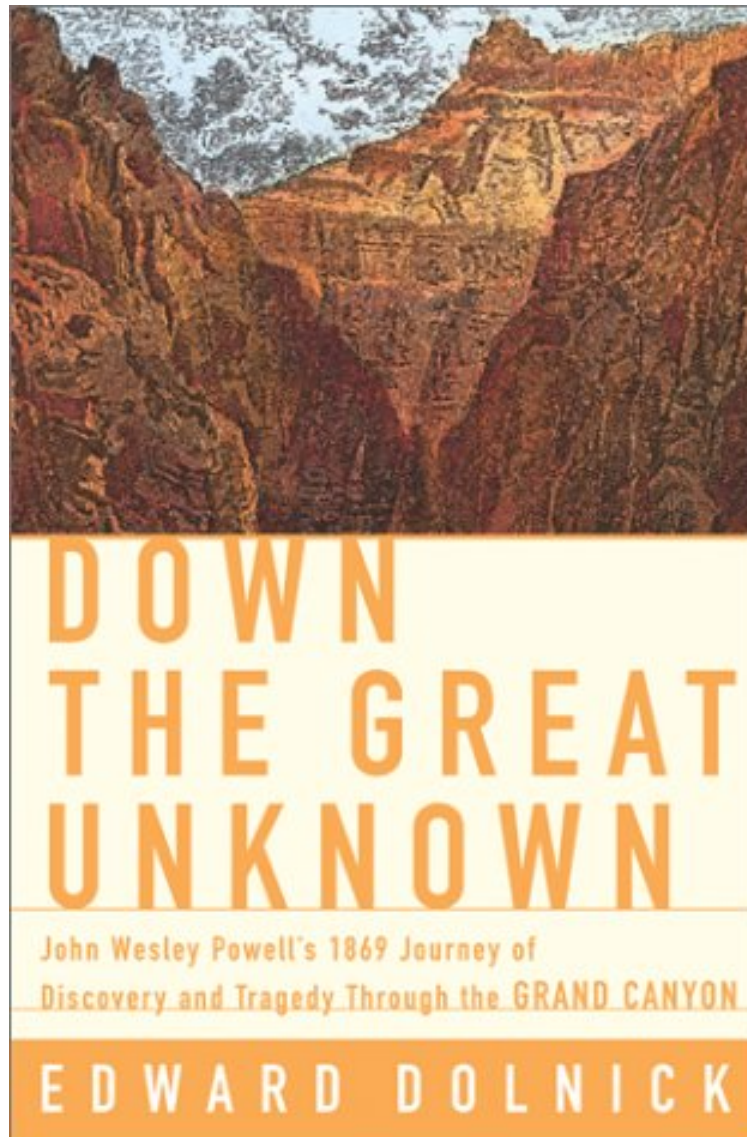


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Down The Great Unknown - John Wesley Powell's 1869 Journey Of Discovery And Tragedy Through The Grand Canyon

Edward Dolnick

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Edward Dolnick : Down The Great Unknown - John Wesley Powell's 1869 Journey Of Discovery And Tragedy Through The Grand Canyon before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Down The Great Unknown - John Wesley Powell's 1869 Journey Of Discovery And Tragedy Through The Grand Canyon:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A trip worth takingBy E. ClintonThis is an excellent book that tells the story of John Wesley Powell's 1869 river trip through the Grand Canyon. It relies on primary source documents, such as diaries and notes taken by the adventurers. The author also interviewed modern adventurers who have taken boat trips through the dangerous rapids of the Colorado River. Because the author took the time to really learn about and understand the river, the book is highly informative. I learned a great deal about the Colorado River, the canyons, the rocks, and the difficulties faced by Powell and his colleagues. Powell was also a skilled climber even though he had lost an arm at the battle of Shiloh in the Civil War. In sum, this is a great history book that does a wonderful job of helping the reader visualize and understand the challenges that Powell and his men faced.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. These Guys Were Tough !!By G. W. MeadorThis book is about more than a Civil War hero, or the group of totally inexperienced men invited along on his quest. This book is about courage, survival and camaraderie, it's about fear, the unknown and what a group of men did to map, just barely, the wild and raging Colorado River and the "Grand Canyon" it ran through. This is a great adventure story, a story of discovery and tragedy. I found it hard to put down. I would recommend it to anyone interested in history, adventure or the great So. West. These guys were tough...0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well doneBy Peter BoodyThere is only so much primary material on which to base this story and the author has done a fine job spinning it into a dramatic tale. It may be a little repetitive at times: after all, how many ways can the perilous passage through one rapids after another be described? But I enjoyed going along for the ride without having to suffer the awful perils of the trip.

Quote from John Wesley Powell at start of the book: "We are now ready to start on our way down the Great Unknown...We are three quarters of a mile in the depths of the earth ...We have an unknown distance yet to run; an unknown river yet to explore. What falls there are, we know not; what rocks beset the channel, we know not; what walls rise over the river, we know not. Ah, well! We may conjecture many things. The men talk as cheerfully as ever; jests are bandied about freely this morning; but to me the cheer is somber and the jests are ghastly.