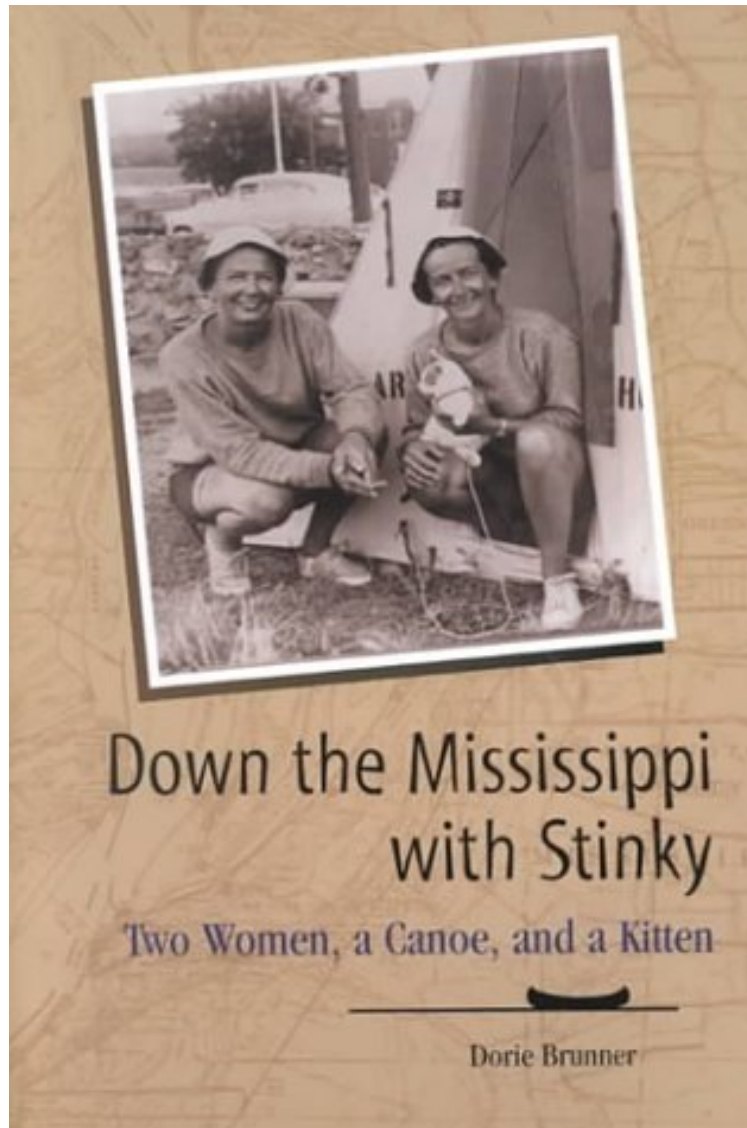


(Mobile book) Down the Mississippi with Stinky: Two Women, a Canoe, and a Kitten (Wisconsin)

Down the Mississippi with Stinky: Two Women, a Canoe, and a Kitten (Wisconsin)

Dorie Brunner, D. Brunner
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Dorie Brunner, D. Brunner : Down the Mississippi with Stinky: Two Women, a Canoe, and a Kitten (Wisconsin) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Down the Mississippi with Stinky: Two Women, a Canoe, and a Kitten (Wisconsin):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Paddling with StinkyBy PaulSo many of the narrative paddling titles published in the USA in the past 15 years are what I call Vanity print runs. Authors paying for print runs that are top

heavy with up to 550 pages of diary style text, whole pages without a paragraph break, very light or totally deficient with maps, clumped together photograph sections (sometimes), cheap paper quality and no bibliography or index. When buying such narratives via new and second-hand websites, it is not the same as picking up and fondling a book in a bookshop, getting a feel for the ability of the writer to spin a good story, and viewing the illustrations and maps. These websites are a trap for paddling literature bookaphiles such as myself. But occasionally the rural postie delivers a wee treasure of a book. The title and subtitle - of this one intrigued me, and what a corker book. It is the story of two teachers, Dorie and Lou, who decide to paddle a Canadian canoe down the 2,300 mile length of the Mississippi River in the North American summer of 1960. For the two lasses, it was choice of teaching jobs in North Africa or the Mississippi paddle - the long paddling trip won out. The author Dorie Brunner must have been 34 years old when the duo started the paddle. Although neither Dorie nor Lou Germann kept a dairy, the text is based on Dorie's 40 year old trip memories and some notes penned on map margins. As the author writes in her preface, it is a rescued kitten that provides the main driving force for the book. Not long after launching their red fibreglass canoe from Lake Bemidji, an unusual mournful cry is heard from a mud flat. The women turn back to find a scrawny kitten stuck in the mud, covered with insect bites and perhaps not much longer to live. They called the kitten Stinky for where they found him. This was quite an ambitious challenge back in 1960, especially for two young women. There is not a lot of background, up till when they started the paddle, aside from brief mention of prior paddle training in Canada, seeking sponsorship for a canoe and kit, and research for maps and background information on the river. Aware of the nasty affects of encounters with poison ivy, both women took a pill for three months prior to gain immunity from the miserable poisonous plant. And it worked. Encounters with river bank dwellers and boaties are described. From a little newspaper publicity on the way, most folk were aware of the trip but were most interested in meeting and hearing stories about Stinky. It was not all smooth paddling; a night encounter with a rabies ridden skunk, and two occasions when the women had to bring out their hand guns for protection from male river rats. A warning shot fired in the second encounter, sent two rats scurrying for their dinghy. In the lower part of the river, they were nailed on several occasions by very powerful and swift moving tornados, having to dig themselves, Stinky, the canoe and paddles from under layers of river sand - frightening encounters. Dorie and Lou (and Stinky) made quite a team, with only one minor disagreement when tempers frayed and Dorie hurled the chart book into the river. Fortunately the book floated and was quickly recovered. The women had a terrible night with Stinky missing from the tent, but made up by recalling stories of their Canoe Commander. They get almost royal treatment when they finish at New Orleans, and even Stinky gets to stay in the hotels baggage room. Nine black and white photo plates bring the story to life; the single map shows the states, the major cities and major tributaries. A nice cover design also, a photo of the two women with Stinky, with a background watermark of a river map. An Afterword provides advice for anyone considering paddling The Father of Waters. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A very charming read. By AfroAmericanHeritage. In 1960, Dorie Brunner and Lou Germann, two Wisconsin school teachers, decided to paddle the Mississippi from the headwaters at Lake Itasca, MN to New Orleans. Shortly into their adventure, they rescued a small kitten from the muck on the shore, and "Stinky" ended up traveling 2000+ miles downriver with them, becoming the focal point of much of their travels. What makes this book so charming is also what weakens it a bit...unlike most contemporary travel/adventure writers, Dorie and Lou obviously undertook this trip for the sheer adventure of it, not to race home and write a best seller. This is their authentic story, told by 74-year-old Dorie some 40 years later, drawing on memory...in fact, it doesn't appear that they even kept a journal. There is very little description of the places they visited, (though there are several photos) more about the daily hazards they faced, and Dorie apologizes for having long ago lost the names of people such as the tugboat captain who gave them a free ride for three days. But the heart of the book is Stinky's story. If you're one who believes that cats wander into our lives when we need them most, you'll find this to be a very charming read. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Remarkably Good Story. By B.P. What an interesting book, I loved it!! Dorie and Lou's canoe trip from Lake Bemidji in Minnesota to the city of New Orleans is an exciting river adventure. They experienced a number of hair-raising situations that made the book anything but boring. While dealing with the unforgiving weather and the unpredictable river, they meet some friendly people who helped them out along the way. And confronted some who didn't, like a skunk, a thief and other campsite intruders. It's an excellent read for those who love camping, canoeing, river stories and even cats. Dorie gives a good description of their journey and preparations. Even though it took place back in the summer of 1960 it's still very informative and interesting. Especially for those who have a fancy for doing something like this. A pet, such as a cat, can teach its human companions so many things about life. Not to mention how the silly antics of a cat can get its owners into trouble. Just as Dorie and Lou found out when they adopted a lonely kitten early in their trip. Stinky the kitten is a wonderful ingredient to their story, and it's likely that you won't find anything similar to this book anywhere else.

Book by Brunner, Dorie, Brunner, D.