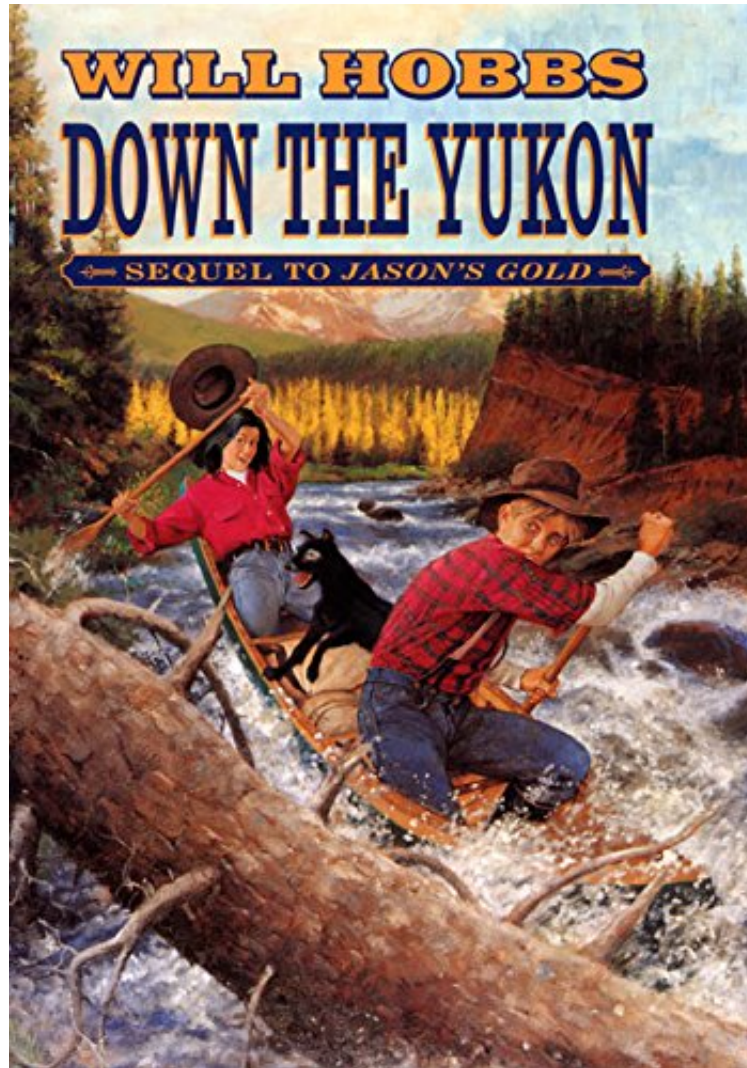


Down the Yukon

Will Hobbs

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Will Hobbs : Down the Yukon before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Down the Yukon:

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Amid the shouts and the cheers and the splashing of oars, it was pandemonium. "Nome or bust!" I yelled. In the shadow of the Arctic Circle, Dawson City is burning down, changing forever the lives of thousands in the Klondike goldfields. All the talk is of Nome, nearly two thousand miles away, where gold has been discovered in the beach sands. Jason Hawthorn is itching to join the new rush. He and his brothers have been cheated out of their sawmill, and Jason has vowed to buy it back. A race to Nome has been announced, with a \$20,000 prize. Jason's partner in his canoe is the girl he loves, Jamie Dunavant, freshly returned from the States, as she promised she would. The Great Race across Alaska will be a grueling test for the two of them as they face the hazards of the Yukon River, two very dangerous men Jason has reason to fear, and the terrors of the open sea. Only their combined skills, courage, and mutual devotion can pull them through.

From School Library Journal Grade 5 Up-In this sequel to Jason's Gold (Morrow, 1999), 16-year-old Jason Hawthorn endures even more hardships in the Yukon. His brother Ethan loses their sawmill business to swindlers in a poker game and the new settlement of Dawson City is devastated by fire. Jamie Dunavant returns, still Jason's girlfriend. When a contest involving a race to Nome is announced, the two of them decide to enter in hopes of winning the \$20,000 prize money to buy back the sawmill. The pace of the novel picks up dramatically as the race begins. Accompanied by Ethan's affectionate mutt, Burnt Paw, Jason and Jamie aim to outpaddle over 300 entrants down the Yukon but adventure gives way to survival when the sawmill swindlers sabotage their canoe. It is a suspenseful trek over land and sea as the teens race the bad guys to the finish line, and a few conveniences make for a happy-ever-after ending. Swedish immigrants, Eskimos, and a Russian priest are minor characters who befriend the heroes and give a real flavor of Alaska in the late 1800s. An appended author's note further separates fact from fiction. More exciting than its predecessor, this book would make a great read-aloud. Vicki Reutter, Cazenovia High School, NY Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Gr. 5-8. Fans of Hobbs' action-packed historical adventure novels will welcome this sequel to Jason's Gold (1999). When fire destroys much of the Canadian gold rush town where the Hawthorne brothers live, a shady character named Donner takes over their mill, and miners leave to find gold in Alaska, Jason decides to compete in a race to the new gold fields. With him in the contest are Jamie, the plucky young lady who appeared in Jason's Gold, and a mongrel dog, Burnt Paw. As if river travel, grizzly bears, a kayak journey across open sea, and a budding romance aren't enough, Jason and Jamie must also deal with ruthless Donner, their main competition in the race. The ending, though predictable, features an appropriate twist. Hobbs includes an epilogue about Jason and Jamie, notes on the historical basis for some of story's characters and events, and a map. Readers looking for an exciting adventure won't be disappointed. Catherine Andronik Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved This welltold tale rushes forward with nonstop action. (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA)) A suspenseful trek over land and sea as the teens race the bad guys to the finish line. (School Library Journal) Readers looking for an exciting adventure won't be disappointed." (Booklist) Writing so realistic that readers will feel the mosquito bites, the icy water, the exhaustion of fighting the current. (Association of Children's Literature)