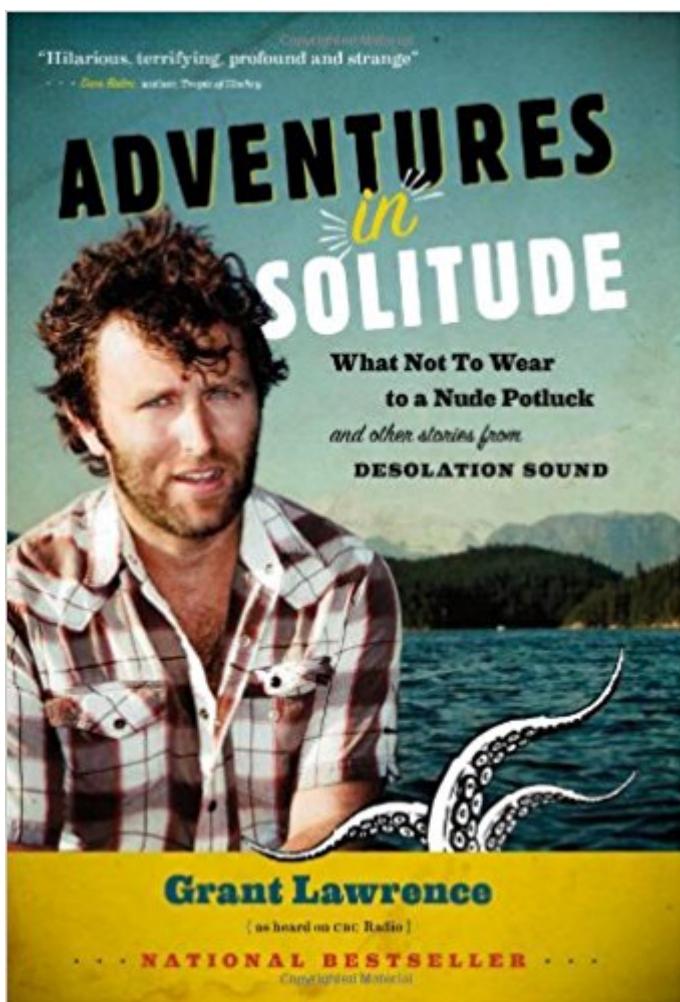


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Adventures In Solitude: What Not To Wear To A Nude Potluck And Other Stories From Desolation Sound



Synopsis

From Captain George Vancouver to Muriel "Curve of Time" Blanchet to Jim "Spilsbury's Coast" Spilsbury, visitors to Desolation Sound have left behind a trail of books endowing the area with a romantic aura that helps to make it British Columbia's most popular marine park. In this hilarious and captivating book, CBC personality Grant Lawrence adds a whole new chapter to the saga of this storied piece of BC coastline. Young Grant's father bought a piece of land next to the park in the 1970s, just in time to encounter the gun-toting cougar lady, left-over hippies, outlaw bikers and an assortment of other characters. In those years Desolation Sound was a place where going to the neighbours' potluck meant being met with hugs from portly naked hippies and where Russell the Hermit's school of life (boating, fishing, and rock 'n' roll) was Grant's personal Enlightenment--an influence that would take him away from the coast to a life of music and journalism and eventually back again. With rock band buddies and a few cases of beer in tow, an older, cooler Grant returns to regale us with tales of "going bush," the tempting dilemma of finding an unguarded grow-op, and his awkward struggle to convince a couple of visiting kayakers that he's a legit CBC radio host while sporting a wild beard and body wounds and gesticulating with a machete. With plenty of laugh-out-loud humour and inspired reverence, Adventures in Solitude delights us with the unique history of a place and the growth of a young man amidst the magic of Desolation Sound.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

By turns hilarious, terrifying, profound and strange, Adventures in Solitude is the great lost Canadian adventure story; Swiss Family Robinson as if rendered by Ken Kesey in his youth, a kind

of Lord of the Flies through a fog of BC chronic. --Dave Bidini, author of On A Cold Road, and Tropic of Hockey. Wow! The details are different but the story is very similar to my own: Being dragged kicking and screaming to a remote location with the family as a child, later rejecting it and refusing to go for 15 years or so and then going back and trying to figure out what my problem was. Of course, I was on the east coast of Canada, I never allowed my parents house to be destroyed by teenage hooligans and my band was actually pretty good, but the themes are universal. --Chris Murphy, bassist, SloanSmart, wry, self-deprecating, irreverent: it turns out that Grant Lawrence on the page is just like Grant Lawrence on CBC Radio. Adventures in Solitude is his wonderfully told story about his deepening connection to a remote, coastal place, to its rich history and its ample stock of outlandish characters, of which he is now one. It's also a story about family and selfhood and love and music and occasional rowdiness. --Bill Richardson, CBC Radio host, author Wow! The details are different but the story is very similar to my own: Being dragged kicking and screaming to a remote location with the family as a child, later rejecting it and refusing to go for 15 years or so and then going back and trying to figure out what my problem was. Of course, I was on the east coast of Canada, I never allowed my parents house to be destroyed by teenage hooligans and my band was actually pretty good, but the themes are universal. --Chris Murphy, bassist, SloanSmart, wry, self-deprecating, irreverent: it turns out that Grant Lawrence on the page is just like Grant Lawrence on CBC Radio. Adventures in Solitude is his wonderfully told story about his deepening connection to a remote, coastal place, to its rich history and its ample stock of outlandish characters, of which he is now one. It's also a story about family and selfhood and love and music and occasional rowdiness. --Bill Richardson, CBC Radio host, author

Grant Lawrence hosts the popular CBC Radio 3 Podcast with Grant Lawrence, and Grant Lawrence Live on CBC Radio 3 and Sirius 86, and can also be heard on various CBC Radio One programs such as DNTO, Spark, All Points West and On The Coast. He still spends much of each summer at his cabin in the Sound.

We read out loud to each other often as we live on our boat and sail often, a perfect activity for our lifestyle. These stories are funny, filled with history and reminders to live life well. We are ready for the next book that Grant writes. We have bought a boat load of copies to hand to friends. We read to them during their visits with us. One chapter and they are hooked. We send them home with their own copy. Makes a great gift.

I gave it four of five stars because it starts rather slow. But once it takes off, it's out the gate and around the bend. And you feel like you are with him in Desolate Sound, falling in love over and over with an isolated area sprinkled with eccentrics, laced with mysteries, and surrounded by beauty, both heartbreak and dangerous.

Loved it. Read while on our boat in Desolation Sound. Found Grant's cabin in the Sound and saw so many of the places mentioned in the book. Loved the humor and truth.

Wonderful book. We read this while sailing Desolation Sound and took turns reading out loud. Poignant and funny.

LOVE this book, great writing, and I want to go to Desolation Sound.

I really enjoyed this book and have passed it along to several people who enjoyed it too, since we live in the area. It's a hard place to get to, but I intend to! Great stories!

Before going to spend some time kayaking in British Columbia, I decided to purchase this book to read more about the Desolation Sound area. It sounded like this would be humorous and also contain some information. Well, the humor part was the big mistake. Grant Lawrence presented himself as a whiney twit, both as a child and adult. I only read a couple of chapters and then gave the book away. Not funny or entertaining.

...you'll enjoy Grant Lawrence's first book. In many ways this feels like a travel book - Grant conveys a real sense of place as he takes you to Desolation Sound (found on the west coast of British Columbia, at the top Georgia Strait and east of Vancouver Island). But this is as much an autobiography and reminiscence as it is about this obscure corner of the world. The book is the better for this personal perspective. We learn about Desolation Sound and its quirky residents through the eyes of Grant Lawrence, from his reluctant childhood introduction to this Canadian Outback through to his fully embrace of its charms as an adult. The stories Grant relates are often funny and more than occasionally touching. Grant's wry, self-deprecating wit and matter of fact prose will remind readers of Bill Bryson or Garrison Keillor. Make no mistake though, Grant's voice is his own. Reading Adventures in Solitude, we see Desolation Sound through eyes that are keen in their insight and affectionate in their gaze. The best compliment I can give is that I spent much of

the book looking at Google Maps and dreaming of a summer vacation past the end of the road.

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