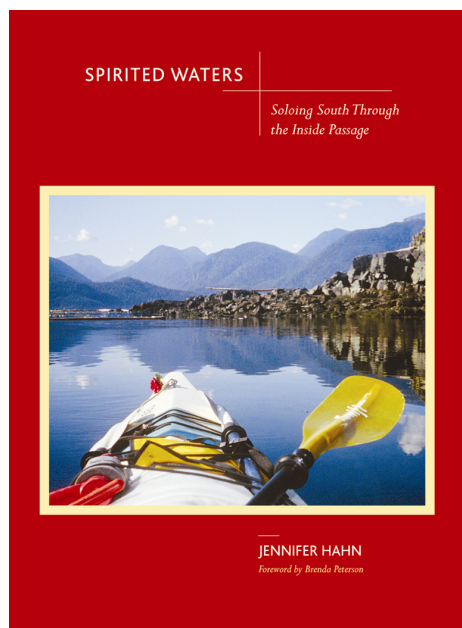




THE MOUNTAINEERS BOOKS
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Spirited Waters

Soloing South Through the Inside Passage

It's odd what happens when you are out by yourself for days on end with no human companion to council or console you. I begin to look to the animals and plants for wisdom. At dusk, I find myself sniffing out musky otter signs because they often foretell of a flat campsite. (Otters tamp down grassy knolls on small islets where they frisk about in the daylight.) Likewise, traveling in rough seas, time and again, I discover a school of dolphins or a family of seals frolicking alongside my boat. Their deep exhalations and playfulness remind me to breathe, to keep my body fluid, to feel at home.

—Jennifer Hahn

Born into a wanderlust family and harboring a love of the sea since she was six, Jennifer Hahn married her passions in a career as a trained naturalist and expedition kayak guide. But as she approached her thirty-fifth birthday, she became acutely aware that both her adventurous mother and brother had died in their mid thirties. An old dream stirred, now with new urgency. **SPIRITED WATERS: Soloing South Through the Inside Passage** is Hahn's account of her single-handed voyage from Ketchikan, Alaska to home in Bellingham, Washington in a sixteen-foot kayak. Her journey took her down seven hundred and fifty miles of cold, pristine waterways—and along her own inner passageways as well.

“I set out on this journey and no other because I wanted to live in nature,” says Hahn. “I'd done my time at a university studying natural history and ecology, and now I wanted ...to live wildly, to be an apprentice to the ocean.” In total, Hahn's journey stretched over seventy days, spanning two springs and summers—the way she found to pursue her dream in the midst of a busy life and all its responsibilities. Much more than a memoir, **SPIRITED WATERS** is a blend of adventure travel, personal discovery, natural history, vivid animal encounters, native elder wisdom, and the heart-warming coastal characters who befriended her on the journey.

Sea kayaking offers an intimate and magical view of the coastal world

Says Hahn, “A kayak sets me intimately within, yet atop and apart from, the sea's body. From that low vantage, I can watch the goings on of animals and plant life moving about in her great, blue-gray belly. A kayak sets me close to danger, too—the fifty-degree water, storms, rip tides. And in a visceral way, I love that also. It keeps me awake—and humble.” Dancing with energy of the sea as she paddles, reading colors and textures as the hieroglyphs of navigation, all her senses are overtaken. She begins to sense an invisible world, “a world that whispers of a time before time, when Raven was God, stones talked, and all creatures and plants were part of a dynamic chorus.” By widening the boundaries of whom she defined as “family,” Hahn realized that she “was not traveling in solitude, so much as multitude.”

SPIRITED WATERS reminds us that even in the landscape of solitude, we are never alone. And, as Hahn notes, “Journeys aren't about miles, they are about moments....They are about living fully, openly, vulnerably, ecstatically, spontaneously, and with enough space for the universe to play its chords across your heartstrings, for you to change, to take an inside passage as well as an outside passage.”

About Jennifer Hahn

Born into a wanderlust family, **Jennifer Hahn** has worked as a sea kayak guide, naturalist, welder, ski instructor, editorial assistant for *Audubon* magazine, illustrator, and tour leader in the Galapagos Islands. She is the founder of Elakah! Kayak Tours and has guided extensively since 1988 in Washington, southeast Alaska, British Columbia, and Baja, Mexico. Hahn, who studied with Pulitzer-prize winning author Annie Dillard, holds a B.A. in Writing, Literature, and Ecology and a B.S. in Environmental Studies. She lives with her potter husband and a fleet of kayaks in Bellingham, Washington.

SPIRITED WATERS

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