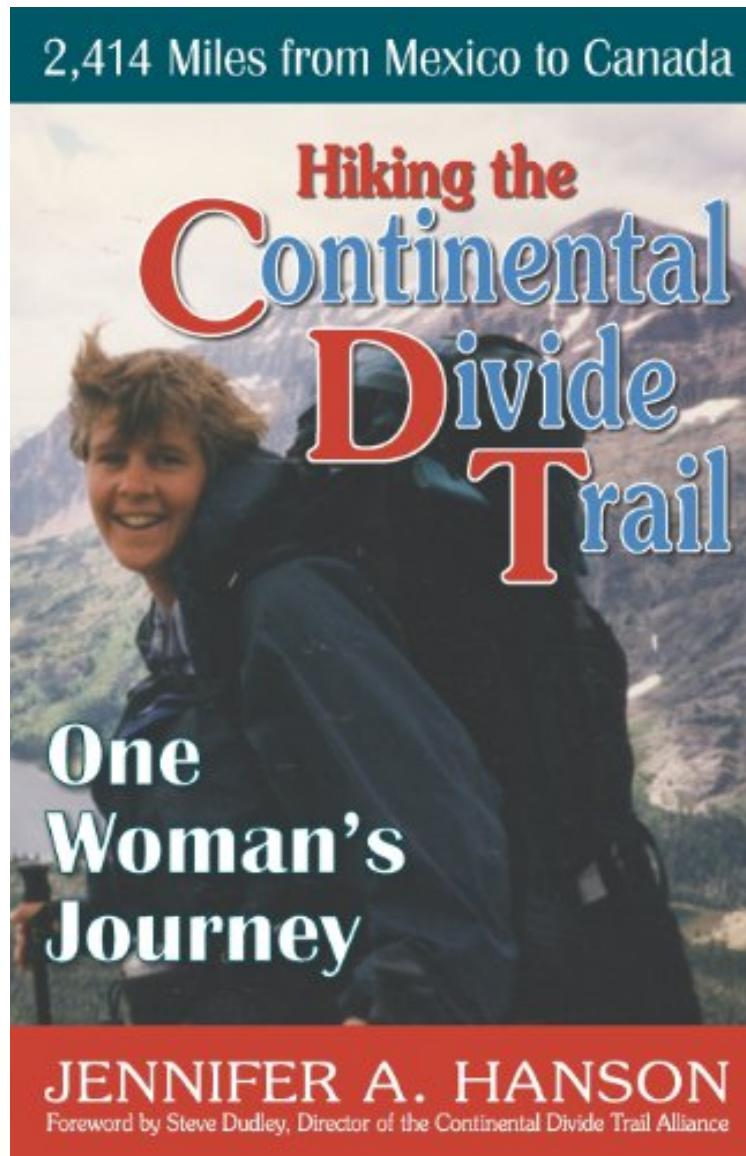


[Download free pdf] Hiking the Continental Divide Trail: One Woman's Journey

Hiking the Continental Divide Trail: One Woman's Journey

Jennifer A. Hanson

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Jennifer A. Hanson : Hiking the Continental Divide Trail: One Woman's Journey before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hiking the Continental Divide Trail: One Woman's Journey:

17 of 17 people found the following review helpful. AN ACCOUNT OF AN AMAZING TRIP AND AN AMAZING LADY.By D. BlankenshipI will tell you right from the start that I did love this book and that it will go into my

"reread" category...yes, for me, it was that good. I love reading adventure travel books and I am specifically fond of what I call "long trail" or hiking books. I have read quite a number of accounts written by individuals who have been through walkers on the Appalachian Trail and the Pacific Trail. This was the first I have read giving an account of the Continental Divide Trail. I have to tell you that this work by Jennifer A. Hanson stacks up well with all of them. This is the account of the author's journey along this approximately 2,400 mile long trail which follows the Continental Divide from Mexico to the Canadian border. This walk was accomplished in 1997 and at that time the trail was not developed like we find along the Appalachian and as a matter of fact was just finding its legs. The author begins the journey with her husband, Greg but finishes the journey solo when Greg was forced to dropout due to a foot injury. Jennifer has the writing ability to make you feel you are beside her as she travels. Her descriptive abilities are as good as they get. She also has the ability to share with the reader her emotions; step by step, mile by mile. These writing abilities cause the reader to simply like the author and you find yourself pulling for her throughout the entire read. I was completely hooked after the second page and had difficulty putting the thing down. I have been a life long hiker; as has my wife (We have been married for 50 years) but neither of us has had the opportunity to take one of these long walks. Now that I am creeping into my physical and mental dotage it is too late for me to attempt something like this but I never-the-less greatly enjoy living trips such as this taken by others as I read their words. Ms. Hanson is most certainly a unique and interesting individual in her own right. Her determination and mental strength as well as her faith shine through on every page. As I said, you simply get to liking her and you most certainly and very quickly start admiring her. We have hiked several of the areas Jennifer traveled through and indeed, have lived in or near some of these areas. She is spot on in her observations which make it even more remarkable that an individual could and did make it through this hike when you consider and know the conditions she faced. Now there are only two problems with the book that I found; or at least I thought I found. The first is that I was not always clear as to which portion of the trail the author and her husband were following. They were forced to do a tremendous amount of bushwhacking and I found myself having to pull maps out of my stash of such things to follow their odyssey. This, I will admit, was a minor problem of little moment. Ah, but the second problem, in my mind, is more serious; if serious you can call it. Now keep in mind that this is the story of one woman's journey and is a decisive segment of what appears to me a very interesting life. This is NOT a biography. It is the record of an event; a tipping point I feel, in the author's life...it changed her. The problem though is the author's - as stated above, due to her skill as a writer, you get to feel like you know her and you begin feeling for her as she faces each struggle she encounters. Other reviewers have pointed out that there have been some apparent changes in the author's life and being human, I must admit to a certain amount of curiosity. That being said, I am also extremely curious about the author's early childhood, and how she got to the point she was as she tells us this tale. Hey, this woman is a West Point Graduate, obviously a very bright young lady, was a service brat and well...I feel there are some tales to be told here and must admit that I want to hear them. These problems though most certainly should not distract from this work though, no, no, no - far from it. If the author feels she does not want to share, then so be it. Hey this is her hike; this is her song and she can walk and sing it anyway she likes as far as I am concerned. I can understand that. We all change as we go through the maturation process and why should this young lady be any different from the rest of us? If you like reading this particular genre then there is little chance of your not liking this book and it should be placed at the top of your "to be read" list...you are missing a lot by not doing so. Don Blankenship The Ozarks 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A little tough to finish By Becky Yawn. Writing was ok, but the story seemed to start, stall, and speed up at random. There would be a long, detailed explanation about a small portion of the trail, and then days skipped ahead. There is a lot of "spiritual" stuff so if that bothers you, this is not the book for you. I have read several thru-hike books, and I understand that there are many opportunities for spiritual moments on the trail (I mean, that is a big reason to do a thru-hike!), but you don't have to write out each prayer you say to yourself along the way. Jennifer's hike seemed like an incredible adventure and huge accomplishment, but the book didn't really portray this. She seemed to finish with a shoulder shrug and "I did it. No big whoop." attitude. I did finish the book, but it was a struggle. I read the Kindle version so was very happy that a good portion of the book is dedicated to trail and travel tips and packing information, because when I saw that I was only 65% of the way through and she was almost done hiking, I was dreading what I might have to read next. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. interesting travels By kdan A fast read and interesting. I had maps out to get a bigger picture of where she hiked. Not sure I would call it a "thru hike" since she did it in sections and at times it was hard to figure out where she was going. However, the writing is clear and emotional and shows growth in her spirit and her heart. It is an amazing accomplishment that takes lots of fortitude and determination. She speaks highly of her husband and yet in the "about the author" section of the book, it states she lives with a partner, Denise. Very confusing ending. What happened? Not that this is our business but if it is in the book, it sort of is and it does make one wonder. Good read and educational! Karen Daniel (not Thomas)

5 States, 148 Hiking Days, 25 Supply Points, 130 Maps
A how-to adventure for both armchair and real-life hikers. Foreword by Steve Dudley, Executive Director of the Continental Divide Trail Alliance. An avid outdoorswoman, West Point graduate and former Captain in the U.S. Army, Jennifer Hanson with her husband Greg Allen set off to

thru-hike the 2,400-mile Continental Divide Trail. Together they traversed: * Arid ranchlands of New Mexico * Snow-capped mountains of Colorado * Red Desert of Wyoming * Glacier National Park of Montana During their hike, Jennifer learned that she had lost her father to cancer, and, within three weeks, her husband was forced to leave the trail due to an injured nerve in his foot. Jennifer finished the last nine hundred miles of the trail alone. Hiking the Continental Divide Trail: One Woman's Journey is the story of their incredible summer and is filled with courage, humor, stunning scenery, local personalities and the simple joys of backpacking. In addition, it is an invaluable resource for those planning their own section- or thru-hike of the CDT. Appendixes include: * Thru-hike Preparation and Timeline * Equipment and Clothing List * Food List * Itinerary and Supply Points * Map List and Sources * Complete Index

Written from the heart. An important read before taking on the CDT. --Rick Russman, Sierra Club National Outings Trip Leader, former NH State Senator (prepublication endorsement) Jennifer Hanson's "Hiking the Continental Divide Trail: One Woman's Journey" recounts the author's flip-flop hike in 1997. The passage of time has seen many improvements in the route as well as the information available to trail users; and today's traveler will not be quite so alone. Yet, despite these changes, the themes of water, weather, physical challenge, and motivation are as true now as they were a dozen years ago. Jennifer's story is a good read and a rewarding introduction for anyone considering a venture on the CDT. --Jim Wolf, Continental Divide Trail Society Director (prepublication endorsement) About the Author Jennifer A. Hanson was born in Heidelberg, Germany in 1959 while her father was stationed there with the U.S. Army. She graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York in 1981 and became an avid back-packer and outdoorswoman. In addition to thru-hiking the 2,414-mile Continental Divide Trail, Jennifer has completed the northern third of the Appalachian Trail, most of Vermont's Long Trail, back-packed in the Canadian Rockies and has climbed to the highest point in a dozen states across the country. She has been employed as an Appalachian Trail Ridge Runner and has served as a Local Hike Reporter for www.LocalHikes.com. Her website offers tips for hikers as well as more photographs and anecdotes from her CDT thru-hike. Jennifer also enjoys snow-shoeing and alpine skiing, and delights in teaching these skills to others, especially youngsters. She is the owner of Hanson Financial Services, a computer consulting company, and lives in upstate New York with her partner, Denise Watso, and their two children.