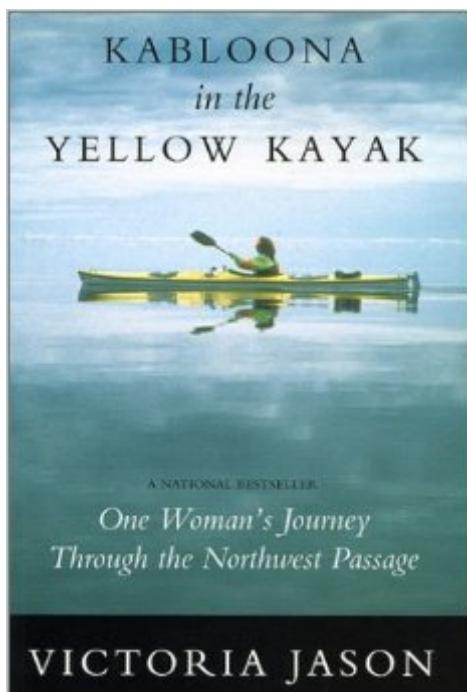


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# Kabloona In The Yellow Kayak: One Woman's Journey Through The Northwest Passage



## **Synopsis**

During the summers of 1991 through 1994 Victoria Jason and two companions--Fred Reffler and Don Starkell--set out to kayak from Churchill, Manitoba to Tuktoyaktuk on the Beaufort Sea. When she set out in 1991, Victoria, already a grandmother of two, had been kayaking for only a year and was still recovering from the second of two strokes.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

If you have never been to the artic you might not understand the true heroics and determination of this Grandmother. It is an unforgiving land spotted with wonderful interesting people and the author puts her story to paper telling of her fantastic adventure, kayaking the North West Passage. The first part of the book covers the turmoil of traveling with a man who is filled with his own ego and a times incredible stupidity. At times you wonder how he survived after striking out on his own. Victoria Jason full fills a life long dream and shares her adventures in a most entertaining writing style. Its like sitting across the table sharing a cup of coffee and listening to a great adventure story of just a common country girl. She has talent to tell a story and the spunk to have lived it.

A friend lended me Victoria's book a few years ago, and I am grateful for that. I found her to be such an inspiration. This book has had a profound influence on my life. Her experiences are fascinating, her inner strength is amazing, and her love for the beauty of man and nature is uplifting. Victoria was a terrifically generous woman. In spite of the fact that she was battling a very aggressive brain tumor over the last year, she gave me the pleasure of her company for an afternoon during a recent trip

through Winnipeg. She spoke of a second book she was working on about her return to the North. Unfortunately this second book remains unfinished, as Victoria passed away on May 20, 2000. She was a great lady!

A great adventure and wilderness story. The author displays a sensitivity towards nature and a bit of insanity (good insanity) given the risks involved in the trip through the Arctic. If you like to sea kayak you will enjoy this book. If you like adventure stories you will also like this book.

Victoria Jason makes you feel like you are paddling the kayak. You experience the wind on your cheeks, the cold spray on your face, the pull of the current and strength of the waves on your boat. But even more powerful are the emotions which you share as you glide through the pages like gliding through the water. You sense her anxiety and vulnerability, her regrets and her doubts. She is independent and totally in control of her own destiny in a land where danger lurks in the water, on the land, and in the weather. She misses her family, thinking of her grandkids often. But she also experiences a sense of accomplishment since she is singularly in control. She is one with nature and gains inner peace and tranquility. In the few times she interacts with others, she is met with caring and sincerity, developing friendships and getting to know them better and deeper than one would in a "normal" setting. Unlike her short-time paddling companion, Don Starkell, who seemed to approach the trip as a task--as he against the elements--she embraces the elements and forms a synergy. She doesn't oppose the land, water, weather, or situations, she lets them work for her with finesse. And even when face to face with a grizzly and having a shotgun which could have been a more certain outcome, she chose a flare gun at the grizzly's feet. Maybe she's a paddling grandmother, but she's also an inspiration to all.

Interesting book, I was up north flying when she did her summers and came through the place I was staying at but missed her. An extraordinary women to be doing a solo trip like that in the conditions she had. She was incredibly tough minded. It was so sad she passed away so young with so much left to do

"Kabloona" is a well-written and interesting story about an interesting lady who did an interesting paddle with some questionable partners. This I've read twice while her partner's I did not finish once. Her paddles in this area took root and she returned after to spend time in native villages that are as 3rd world as anywhere in the world. I reread it just before paddling in the Pelly Bay area and

one in our group spotted the very small marker on the Ihoktok beach. Just a small plaque in a pretty spot along the shore with the tundra stretching up and away in the distance. No mention of her in Kugaaruk itself, but her presence would have had to have improved the community. I'd like to read her second book but have not found it available anywhere.

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