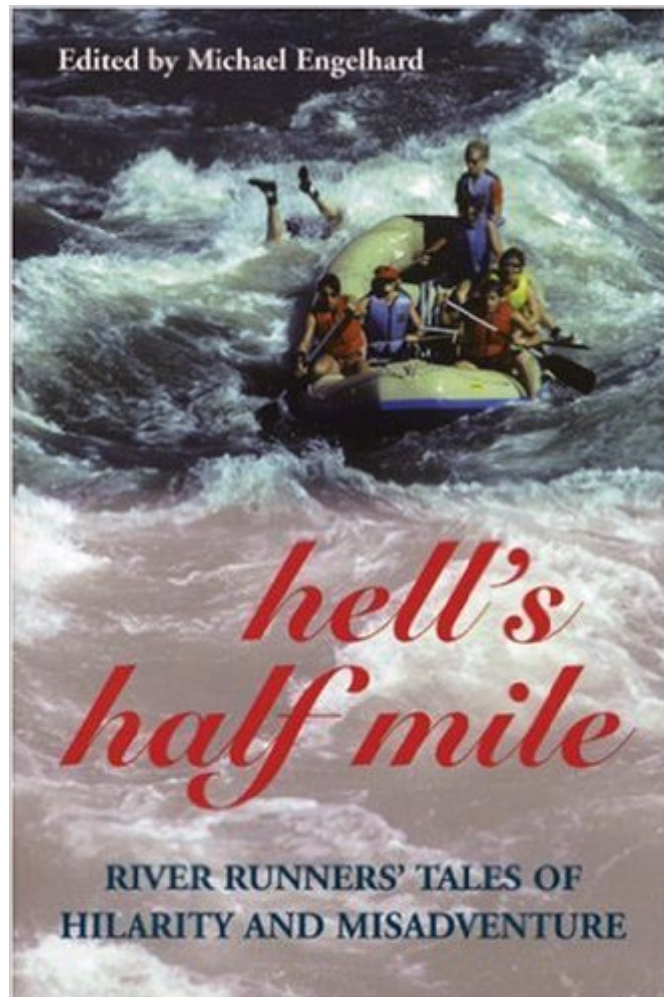


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# Hell's Half Mile: River Runners' Tales Of Hilarity And Misadventure



## Synopsis

A collection of 27 tales from river runners and outdoors writers about rafting trips gone wrong. These stories range from the hilarious to the horrifying: men overboard, capsized boats, bear attacks, whirlpools and waves that whiten the hair, and tourist encounters that are even worse. Includes excellent writing from Pete Fromm, John Nichols, Edward Abbey, R.M. Patterson, Craig Childs, Brad Dimock and other well-known outdoors writers. The collection is one-third previously published pieces and two-thirds new material. Michael Engelhard is an anthropologist and an outdoors instructor. He writes natural history and travel pieces for Northern Lights, Plateau Journal, Wild Earth and other publications. He lives in Moab, Utah.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (8 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,145,954 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #45 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Outdoor Recreation > Rafting](#) #362 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Outdoor Recreation > Kayaking](#) #636 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Miscellaneous > Essays](#)

## Customer Reviews

Whitewater rafting is one of the most popular sports in the United States. Every year hundreds of thousands of tourists and avid "river rats" float every type of river in the country. Challenging rivers like the Colorado through the Grand Canyon to the Middle Fork of the Salmon in Idaho, from the Tuolumne in California to the Gauley in West Virginia, are routinely rafted by adventurers seeking the challenge and thrill of facing these liquid locomotives. It is not uncommon to wait up to 15 years for a private permit and up to 3 years for a seat on a commercial raft trip through the Grand Canyon. Predictably, there are numerous books about individual whitewater rafting experiences and a respectable number that explain how to participate in the sport with or without the benefit of a guide. In addition, a few former guides have written books about their experiences but remarkably there are few anthologies written by river guides that purport to tell the truth about river running on

western rivers. This book seeks to remedy that oversight by providing stories from 30 former and current "river rats" that will provide as good a description as one is likely to get of the less than scientific method of river running as practiced by a bunch of "...misfits and misanthropes, dreamers and daredevils, weekend warriors and professional guides, nataphobes and bibliophiles, "established voices" and undiscovered gems." In short, these are stories purported to be factual from a group that's primary claim to fame is storytelling regardless of the truth. It is that and much more. The stories of kayakers, dory men, canoeists, rafters and assorted others are humorous, thoughtful, questionable, and a reminder of the river lore that has lured rafters to water since Huckelberry Finn.

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