

# The True Story of Adventure, Friendship, and Tragedy on the Last of the West's Great Rivers



**Anything Worth Doing: A true story of adventure, friendship and tragedy on the last of the West's great rivers** by Jo Deurbrouck

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 2027 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 216 pages  
Lending : Enabled



In 1983, four friends embarked on an epic rafting adventure down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. What they didn't know was that they were about to face the most dangerous rapids in the world, and that their journey would end in tragedy.

The friends were John Wesley Powell, a one-armed Civil War veteran and explorer; William Dunn, a photographer; Frank Goodman, a boatman; and Andrew Hall, a geologist. They had all been drawn to the Grand Canyon by its beauty and its challenge. They wanted to be the first to raft the entire length of the river, from Lee's Ferry to Lake Mead.

The friends set off on their journey in May of 1869. They traveled in four boats, each made of wood and canvas. They had no maps or charts, and they had no idea what lay ahead of them.

The first few days of the journey were relatively easy. The river was wide and slow-moving, and the scenery was breathtaking. But as the friends traveled deeper into the canyon, the river became more treacherous. The rapids became more frequent and more dangerous.

On August 27, 1869, the friends reached the most dangerous rapids of all: the Lava Falls. The falls were a series of huge, crashing waves that could easily overturn a boat. The friends knew that they had to be careful, but they also knew that they couldn't turn back.

The friends entered the Lava Falls one by one. The first three boats made it through safely. But the fourth boat, which was carrying Hall, was overturned by a wave. Hall was thrown into the river and swept away.

The friends were devastated by Hall's death. They had lost a member of their team, and they knew that the journey would never be the same.

The friends continued on their journey, but they were now more cautious. They knew that the river was still dangerous, and they didn't want to risk losing another life.

The friends finally reached Lake Mead on September 13, 1869. They had completed their epic journey, but they had also lost a friend. The journey had been a success, but it had also been a tragedy.

The story of the Powell Expedition is a reminder of the dangers of the Grand Canyon. It is also a story of friendship and courage. The friends who embarked on this journey were willing to risk their lives for the chance to explore one of the most beautiful and dangerous places on Earth.

## **The Legacy of the Powell Expedition**

The Powell Expedition had a profound impact on the exploration of the Grand Canyon. Powell's maps and charts helped to make the river more accessible to other explorers. The expedition also helped to raise awareness of the Grand Canyon's beauty and importance.

Today, the Grand Canyon is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world. Millions of people visit the canyon each year to hike, raft, and camp. The Grand Canyon is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

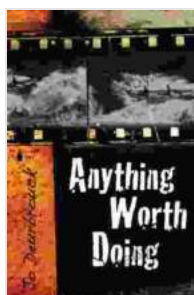
The legacy of the Powell Expedition lives on today. The expedition helped to open up the Grand Canyon to exploration and tourism. It also helped to raise awareness of the canyon's beauty and importance.

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