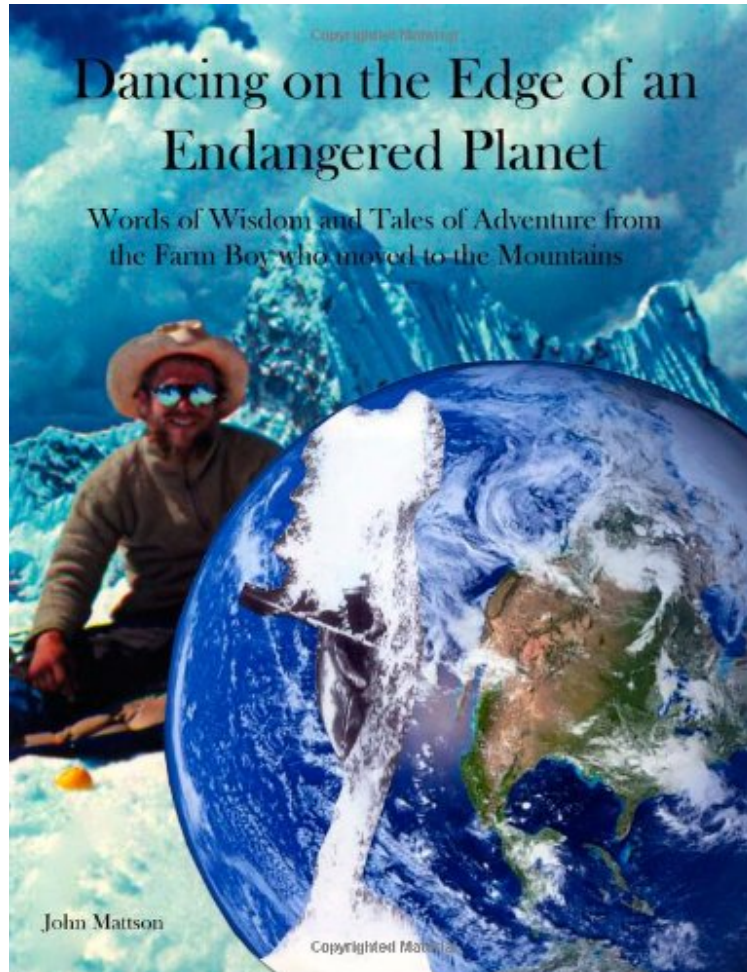


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Dancing on the Edge of an Endangered Planet

John Mattson, J. Gluckstern

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John Mattson, J. Gluckstern : Dancing on the Edge of an Endangered Planet before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dancing on the Edge of an Endangered Planet:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great adventure photosBy PeggyI ordered this book because I read it contained photos taken by my old friend Randy Kennedy. I was pleased to find the book also contained numerous photos of Randy as well as a chapter dedicated to him. It's a great adventure book with plenty of humor, stories of travel and friendship, and wonderful photographs. So glad to have it!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Read for the Armchair Traveler!By Brian VickersJohn Mattson shares numerous personal adventures that take you from early adventures with skiing and climbing to a wealth of stories on kayaking in South America and Asia, and then finishing with skiing down mountains and volcanoes in the Andes of South America. I used to think that I was adventurous, but as I read Johns stories I was introduced to a whole new world of extreme adventures of which I was not previously aware. The authors humble narrative of no frills adventures in foreign places makes these trips seem

more accessible to the middle class adventure traveler with a healthy reserve of adrenaline and the flexibility to bivouac when the journey takes longer than expected. John puts his heart and soul into the stories and his selection of quotes. I found the tributes to his adventure partners who died while pursuing their passions to be especially touching. John's welcoming personality is demonstrated in the stories and comes through in this writing. By the time I had read several stories, I felt like I knew John much better as a person. The more I read, the more I was inspired to live my dreams and become a positive force in the world. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Review by Closed the Cover By Ashley LaMar Wild tales of adventure and a bit of inspiration is the subtitle of this book. Wild tales, indeed! Author John Mattson may have started life on the lonely prairies of North Dakota, but boy oh boy did he ever pack a hundred years of adventures into one life. From page one to 252, I don't think anyone could jam more sights, adventure, craziness and unharnessed will to live into one book. This was a fun one to read. Starting out a college student who decides to try alpine skiing on a whim, then moving on to being a rodeo cowboy, a rock climber, a free spirited kayaker, a river explorer, and more, this is a story that made me think how I wish I could have done just one of these things! Full of old photographs and tall tales galore, Mattson easily and humbly describes his life enjoying the many natural splendors of our planet--and the dangers as humanity's greed and evil lay bare the ecosystems that Mattson holds dear. Although it is not a literary masterpiece--there are a few typos, and the oversized manuscript is a little unwieldy, the typeface choppy--I don't doubt for a minute that Mattson ever intended for it to be a highbrow book. His wild storytelling feels like you're sitting next to him at a bonfire, sipping coffee, swapping tales. His enthusiasm for life and extreme sports is never told with a haughty swagger, but almost with an innocent, slightly crazy daredevil's smirk, in natural country boy I can't believe I actually did that twang that makes you feel entirely at ease--even as you are stepping off an alpine cliff with him, ready to slalom to the bottom on homemade skis. Dancing on the edge takes you from country to country, from the US to Belize, Nepal, Chile and more, as cars break down and are left roadside, as small groups of hardcore adventurers sleep in caves and under the stars, as avalanches and river rapids and danger-filled landscapes threaten them at every pass. I truly appreciated Mattson's descriptive talents as he took the time to look for and tell the reader about natural wonders along the way: sunlight sparkling on river rapids, flocks of ewes on mountaintops, the simple but delicious foods he enjoyed. He speaks often of the friendships he made, and often cites near strangers by name, as if tipping a gloved hand to them for the warm memories they made together. I found it fascinating that he also includes great mechanical and engineering detail about equipment used and locations visited (in between jumping off mountains and sliding down rivers, he earned an engineering degree and is a designer-builder). Because of this attention to minuscule details and embellishments, I really felt like I was there, too. If you've ever wished that you could just lock up your house and take a wild trip around the world, with no luxurious hotels and a/c to distract you from enjoying the natural planet and its people, take a copy of this book and read away. You'll be wiping sweat off your brow and steadying your heart rate in no time. Review by Alicia Accardi Closed the Cover

A thrilling and inspirational book of short adventure stories that spans the globe and includes extreme whitewater kayaking, ski racing, freestyle ski jumping, mountain climbing, rodeo, and working in a gold mine. The book is printed in a coffee table style format with hundreds of action packed black and white photos and 16 pages of brilliant color. The stories are written in chronological order and portray the life of a poor farm boy who finds his soul in the mountains and canyons of the world. Each chapter begins with an inspirational quote, and the book is very entertaining, inspirational and humorous.

Tip your cap to one of the great everyman's adventurers that you've never heard of -- until now. John Mattson's life has been one grand, non-stop adventure. From his early, self-taught climbing exploits on rock, snow and ice to trying his hand at buckin bronco riding and downhill ski racing, to paddling plenty of broiling uncharted creeks and rivers across the globe, John has been Living the Dream. His understated, sitting-around-the-campfire storytelling demeanor lets us join in as if we were one of the gang--even though we would probably drown trying to keep up...John's zeal and respect for our planet and its inhabitants pervades the tales and reassures us that low budget, easy on the environment, down-to-earth curiosity and exploration can fulfill us with so much life and enduring experiences. --Neil Beidleman World renowned high altitude climber, extreme skier, and ultra marathoner. --Neil Beidleman (ed: January, 2012) In *Dancing on the Edge of an Endangered Planet*, John Mattson spins a series of exciting tales about a lifetime spent adventuring in some of the world's most beautiful and remote places. Mattson has ridden rodeo broncs, been a downhill ski racer, trekked jungles, climbed peaks in Peru, kayaked hair-raising whitewater runs and scaled desert canyon pinnacles. Along the way, he also found time to become an engineer, a master carpenter, photographer, writer and publishing entrepreneur. In Mattson's breezy, humble, sitting-around-the-campfire voice, readers are introduced to a global cast of colorful characters that, through a blending of skill, willpower and courage, overcome the inner and outer limits of wilderness experience. Although the author emerges unscathed from these numerous adventures (and sometimes one wonders how), not every ending is happy: there are tributes to friends and acquaintances lost along the way. Mattson also patiently explains the technical aspects of some of the sports he loves, and footnotes add additional

information. From homespun snapshots of his early life on a North Dakota farm to amazing photographs taken from mountain summits and river canyons, Mattson's photography adds immensely to the spirit of the book. A few issues: Mattson changes the names in a series of stories about illegal climbs in Monument Valley to protect the outlaws, and a character named Sven, takes the forefront in some adventures. Is Sven, Mattson's alternate ego, a figment of his imagination or a real person? In addition, some faces are blurred in photographs, also to protect identities. And while kayaking in Yellowstone, he refers to the park as Jellystone. All of these factors take away from the rich honesty of the narrative. Overall, though, *Dancing on the Edge of an Endangered Planet* is a fascinating collection that will enthrall outdoor and armchair adventurers alike. Mattson's is a life truly lived on the edge. Here, it is served up with a generous helping of love and respect for the places he visits, people he meets, cultures he experiences and planet on which he lives. Also available in hardcover and softcover. Author's Current Residence Boulder, Colorado --Blueink reviews

John has spent most of his life challenging himself and exploring the wild places on our planet. His love of the Earth, understanding of the rhythms of the outdoors, and his ability to tune into the people he meets along the way might act as guidance to others of us who seek to seize life by the horns and live it to the fullest. It is too easy to be swept away from what is important by the powerful currents of our day-to-day lives. Reading John's stories and anecdotes allows me to eddy out and regain my focus and clarity. My trips with John have been among the best adventures of my life, and I have regaled many around campfires with crazy and interesting stories that have been formed by those adventures. Enjoy this book, and be ready to take a great trip from the comfort of your armchair! -- Scott Young; World renowned kayaker, and founder of L'eau Vive Paddlesports. Winner of the 2010 Colorado Independent Publishers Association EVVY awards. --Colorado Independent Publishers Association

About the Author John Mattson started his education in a one room school house on the lonesome prairies of North Dakota, but he has always believed in following his dreams. These dreams have taken him on full spectrum of extreme adventures that have spanned the globe and taken him to the bottom of some of the deepest canyons and some very lofty summits. His adventures started when he dropped out of college to pursue skiing, and spent 6 months working in an underground gold-mine in the Black Hills of South Dakota. He managed to survive the gold mine and moved to Aspen, Colorado, where he taught himself to rock-climb, ski jump, and kayak, and became involved in the local ski-racing league, as well as the local cowboy rodeos. At 35, he decided to move to Boulder and finish college, but he continued to climb, ski, and kayak and explored numerous extreme rivers in Colorado. At 38 he finally graduated with a BS in Architectural Engineering, and started a small design-build business for passive solar homes. The business prospered and was somewhat seasonal, so he used his spare time to travel extensively and kayak dozens of extreme rivers in Asia, New Zealand and North and South America. These trips included a first descent of a section of the Mekong River in Tibet at age 53, and a 230 mile journey on the seldom run Humla Karnali in Nepal at 47. He also managed to bag a few peaks along the way. John paddled extreme whitewater into his mid fifties, and is still very active with kayaking, rock-climbing and skiing. His small business promotes solar energy, and energy efficient designs, and he dreams of a world free of pollution and war. One of his lifetime dreams was to be a writer, and this career started while he was recovering from a serious kayak injury. He has written numerous articles for the American Whitewater Association, and the local newspaper. John has also been a serious amateur photographer for more than thirty years, and his self-published book is filled with his finest photos.