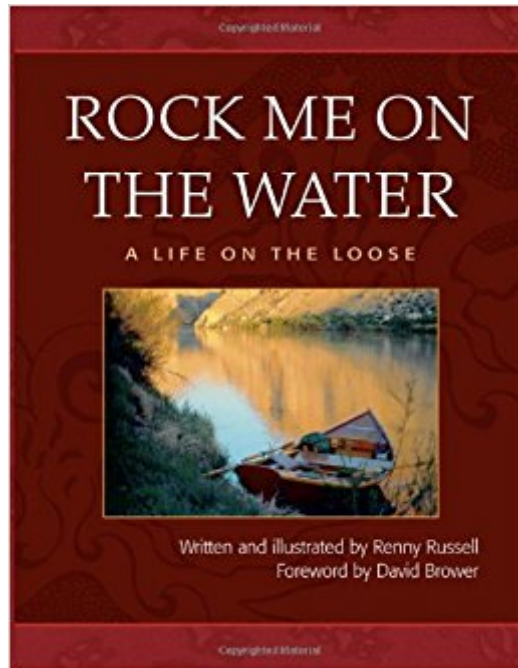


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Rock Me On The Water: A Life On The Loose



Synopsis

Picking up where its predecessor the bestselling *On the Loose* left off, this reflection revisits the physical and spiritual terrain that shaped two brothers' lives. Consumed by a passion to fully experience the western wilderness and to navigate untamed and unpredictable waterways, Terry and Renny Russell set out to travel down the Green River in Utah. Several miles into the journey, their raft doubles over. Terry perishes, and after washing up on the beach, Renny embarks upon what is to become a nearly four-decade-long odyssey to understand how he came to be the sole survivor and how to fully connect with his brother's spirit. Interweaving the past and present, this vibrantly illustrated meditation documents the metamorphosis of Renny's psyche, the natural environment that has sustained him, and ultimately his redemption.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Renny Russell's *Rock Me on the Water* is at its heart courageous. To return to the same power of nature that took his brother thirty years previous to be with it, to confront it, to take solace in it, and to be inspired and healed by it is remarkable in itself. His book is, as well, a testament to the evocative rhythms of the wilds. In this complicated dance, profoundly personal journey, Renny Russell also gives us an amazingly spirited tour of one of the truly great landscapes of the American West and a keen understanding of its power to shape a life. Robert Redford. --Book jacket
Finally, we have the gift of Renny Russell's raw, honest voice once again, after *On the Loose* shaped and influenced an entire generation. We return to the fluid landscape of the Green River, where Renny's brother Terry Russell, drowned. This poignant memoir fills in the gaps, opens our eyes to grief and

love and the profound healing nature of wild country. We see how two brothers found their passion in the heart of the Colorado Plateau as our nation was at war in Vietnam. And we see how the brother who is left behind moves forward in time by honoring history, both personal and geologic, not as a distraction but as a handhold to the continuity of life. Renny Russell has written his way back home. His explorations on the page become an open door to the beauty of one wild heart. Terry Tempest Williams, author, *The Open Space of Democracy and Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place*. --Book jacket In the '60s Renny Russell and his late brother Terry co-authored *On the Loose*, a paean to wild places that became the touchstones of the environmental movement. Four decades later, Renny Russell has written a raw, soul-searching, searingly heartfelt companion volume, *Rock Me on the Water*. A bittersweet meditation on family and loss and the myriad ways in which unspoiled country can shape a life, this book will resonate with wrenching power for anyone touched by *On the Loose*. Jon Krakauer, author, *Into the Wild*, *Into Thin Air*, and *Under the Banner of Heaven*. --Book jacket

Renny Russell is the coauthor, along with his brother Terry, *The New York Times* bestseller *On the Loose*. He is a boat builder, illustrator, publisher, calligrapher, musician, silversmith and river guide. He lives in Questa, New Mexico.

I'm sitting here writing this review from the place where the author's 1965 trip down the Green River ended, south of Torrey, on the edge of Boulder Mountain, surrounded by pinyon, ponderosa and cream colored palisades 600 ft. high. As an inhabitant of this amazing landscape for the last 30 plus years, I'm deeply interested in the stories that surround this magical spot. I'm sure that those who love the golden light and radiant stone of Capitol Reef and the Waterpocket Fold share that interest. This wonderful book tells one of those stories, bringing back to the surface times and experiences that those of us who found our true selves in the great canyons of the Colorado Plateau during the tumult of 60's and 70's. Those of us who shared that journey with Renny, who grew up in the Escalante, on Deso, and the Grand Canyon, owe him our thanks and congratulations for the grace, beauty and insight of his report.

I've had a copy of *On The Loose* in every home I have ever lived since 1972. I've read it over and over and over. Reading *Rock Me On The Water* was a bit of a religious experience. *Rock Me On The Water* fills in the back story and give so much more meaning to *On The Loose*. Thanks Renny!

Having read On The Loose for the first time in '69, I treat it as more important than a bible. This book brought closure to me, now 62, forty years later. I read it the first night I had it, then sent it off to my sister to read too, bringing us both up to date with Terry and Renny's beautiful world of canyons, stars and a quiet life by the rivers of the west.

Often self-indulgent search for a reason to write about the wilderness life.

Eloquently written; awe inspiring!

Just half way through and I can feel the anguish and pain coming through. The true epiphany, for me and my own similar experience, is the healing that comes from reading Russell's words. I know I will read several times before I pass on.

This book hit me hard, found it extremely touching. The author missing his brother even after so many years have gone past.....Dave

This is a great book with a great message. This is a very inspirational book.

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