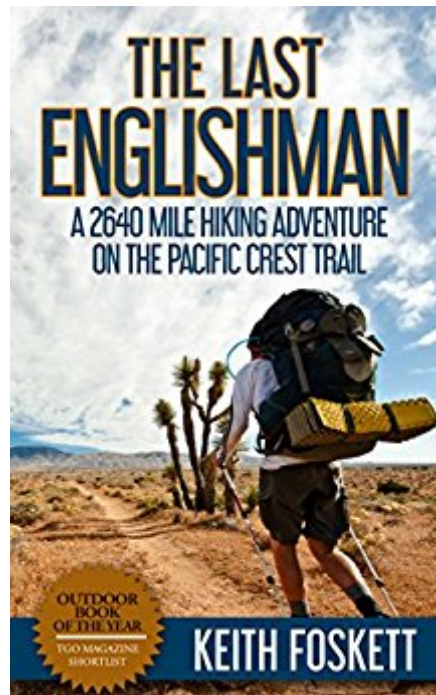


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The Last Englishman: A Thru-Hiking Adventure On The Pacific Crest Trail



Synopsis

A #1 Best-Seller on . Shortlisted for Outdoor Book of the Year by The Great Outdoors Magazine. The second book from Keith Fosskett. The Pacific Crest Trail stretches some 2,650 miles from the Mexican border to Canada. It meanders through the scorching deserts of California, the dramatic Sierra Nevada, the volcanic landscape of Oregon and the vast forests of Washington. Every year scores of hikers attempt to walk its entirety. Four in ten give up in the first month alone and only two in ten will reach Canada. Extremes of heat and cold, the toughness and roughness of the trail and encounters with an assortment of potentially deadly creatures stretch walkers to their absolute limits. It's a lesson Keith Fosskett soon learns the hard way, having to deal with blisters and other physical ailments, as well as his inherent phobia of snakes, spiders, bears, getting dirty and camping in the woods after dark. With the harsh winter looming, he enters into a desperate race against time, facing a dangerous, physical and very real threat to become the last Englishman to complete the greatest long distance hiking trail on Earth. I'm not sure if Keith Fosskett knows it but he has penned a hiking classic. I just wanted to pack up my bags and head off into the wilderness.' " Spencer Vignes (The Observer). 'Telling the true story of a seven-month PCT hike from Mexico to Canada, crossing wild desert and mountain and meeting everything from eccentric hikers to rattlesnakes along the way. Easy to read and at times laugh-out-loud funny, it will make you want to pack your rucksack and go.' " Rosie Fuller (Adventure Travel magazine). 'Long-distance hiking is tragically romantic: it's not all about fresh air, aesthetic majesty, and colorful company. This book is refreshingly honest about the difficulties and day-to-day monotony. But it also captures the rewards of this oversized effort to hike the United States end to end.' " Andrew Skurka (National Geographic Adventurer of the Year).

Book Information

File Size: 2881 KB

Print Length: 351 pages

Publication Date: February 13, 2014

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B007EDIAY4

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #7,041 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #1 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Travel > Specialty Travel > Solo Travel #1 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Travel > Specialty Travel > Sports #2 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Sports > Outdoors & Nature > Hiking & Camping > Camping

Customer Reviews

I am an avid backpacker, and I live not far from the PCT in Washington. Because I can't take time off from making a living to be a thru-hiker, I have been section hiking the Washington PCT for the past few years. When I can't be on the trail, I am an avid reader of "armchair adventures," especially books about the PCT. Over the years I've noticed a pattern in most PCT adventure books: the first 7/8 of the book describes travels through California, the next few chapters describe hiking through Oregon, and then there are a few token pages that basically say "and then it rained in Washington and then I reached Canada. The End" Keith Foskett's book gave more than a glancing blow to the beauty of the Washington PCT, which I greatly appreciated. I also appreciated the fact that he hiked his own hike, and even though he took an alternative route through parts of Oregon due to winter weather conditions, he felt--and I agree with him wholeheartedly--that he hiked the entire PCT. His trail companions came alive on the pages of this book, and his account was both humorous and introspective--without becoming a pity party. I thoroughly enjoyed it from start to finish.

After finishing Fozzie's first book (The Journey In Between, about thru-hiking El Camino de Santiago), I rolled straight into this one. It's really cool to go on another armchair adventure with the same hiker. I'm extremely grateful that he documented his multiple thru-hikes so I can live vicariously through them. Between these two books, the Camino seemed more charming, and the Pacific Crest Trail more rugged. The last leg of the journey was particularly page-turning, as winter set in and the trail was buried under snow. I thoroughly enjoyed the adventure, and there were some great characters along the way. (Pockets!!) Now I'm on to Fozzie's third installment, Balancing On Blue, where he tackles the Appalachian Trail.

I can see why this was an award-winning book. I had previously read WILD, by Cheryl Strayed, and THRU-HIKING WILL BREAK YOUR HEART, by Carrot Quinn, but this was absolutely my favorite

PCT book! I wish this could be made into a movie. I actually appreciated that "Fossie" (you feel like you know Keith right from the get-go as you read) didn't seem to have a lot of dramatic back story. He was just there to hike. I've lived in Oregon and am originally from Washington, so I both knew most of the areas described in those portions of his hike and, frankly, I was scared, cold, and worried right along with him when the trail seemed to disappear in the snow and he found himself in the Northern Cascades in a heap of trouble. His accomplishment and his recounting of it are a true inspiration to me. Fossie, before I read your book, I was doubtful I would ever want to attempt the PCT, because of the hot, dry miles-without-water portion in the south. But after reading your book, you've given me hope. My husband is now reading and enjoying your book...and he has NO interest in hiking. If you can keep him reading like he is, you've done something amazing! Thank you! I want him to understand and appreciate my goals.

This was such a terrific read. Foscett really has a knack for bringing the reader along for the ride, so much so that I could barely put this down. As an avid walker and aspiring thru-hiker myself, it was inspiring to read an honest, going-for-broke account of someone doing exactly what I have dreamed of for years. Foscett approaches his journey with an obvious joy that shines through the words, and even during the toughest of slogs (there are many), he maintains a dogged optimism and gratitude just for being there. Rounding out the story is a huge supporting cast of trail brothers and sisters that remind the reader Foscett didn't do it "alone." After reading "The Last Englishman," I feel like I have a decent overall handle of what it is to hike the PCT. I hope to walk either a good chunk or the whole thing while I'm still on this earth, and this book has lit a fire under my ass to do so. Highly recommended.

In my world of few hikers, meeting Keith Foscett (at least in hiker spirit) warmed the winter inside my heart. Meeting his companions was the hot chocolate around the fire

Fozzie, I absolutely loved your book and will be reading more of your writing! I am one who is thinking of doing the PCT and have gleaned a tremendous amount of information from this. I also am proud of you for having written FULL length book and having had it proofread as so many "Kindle books are such short novelists and so poorly written grammatically. I strongly recommend this book to anyone that enjoys the outdoors and especially any distance hiker. Can only dream of getting to meet you someday but alas, I'm in Oklahoma. A bit of a way from England or the PCT. Stay healthy and keep hiking, "Windjammer".

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