

Curve Of Time: 50th Anniversary Edition



Synopsis

This is a biography and astonishing adventure story of a woman who, left a widow in 1927, packed her five children onto a 25-foot boat and cruised the coastal waters of British Columbia, summer after summer. Muriel Wylie Blanchet acted single-handedly as skipper, navigator, engineer and, of course, mum, as she saw her crew through encounters with tides, fog, storms, rapids, cougars and bears. She sharpened in her children a special interest in Haida culture and in nature itself. In this book, she left us with a sensitive and compelling account of their journeys.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Our world then was both wide and narrow-wide in the immensity of sea and mountain; narrow in that the boat was very small, and we lived and camped, explored and swam in a little realm of our own making."-- M. Wylie Blanchet
The Curve of Time features stories from the summer adventures of M. Wylie Blanchet and her family. This accomplished sea woman and her five children braved the gulfs, straits, and fjords that separate Vancouver Island from mainland British Columbia, Canada, during the 1920s and 1930s on their 25-foot cruiser, Caprice. From searching for the elusive sea horse to following Orca whales through rapids created by swiftly changing tides, Blanchet describes a time so recent, and yet so very far away. This book is playful and exciting, a trip that unites the reader with a family of adventurers that is one of a kind. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This sweet volume is Blanchet's recounting of summers spent sailing around Vancouver Island with

her children in a 25-foot-long boat. Their adventures include close encounters with a cougar and killer whales, looking for seahorses and discovering Native American artifacts. But the book lacks a context. A short introduction by a friend indicates that the book was first published in Canada 30 years ago, that the author died six months later while working on a sequel, and that some new material has been incorporated into the present edition. The ages of her children are never given, nor are the sections in the book dated. Those unfamiliar with the region may be just as disoriented, since the distances covered are rarely given. Once it becomes obvious that such clues are not forthcoming, the book itself is readable and enjoyable, especially its descriptions of the wildlife encountered on these journeys. With a little more care, however, this could have had meaning for more than just a small circle of Blanchet's friends. (Apr.) *CHILDREN'S BOOKS Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A very interesting book in several regards. The concept of time curve was minor to the story but a twist to telling the story that was thought provoking . Combining the experience of 15 years of family cruises into one story line that could easily have been assumed to be one voyage was well done. This moved the story along rapidly and smoothly. For those with knowledge of, or an interest in, the Canadian gulf islands, desolation sound, and adjoining waters, this book provides a view into the historic experience of cruising this area, and the culture of First Nation peoples of this area and the early European nautical explorers. A highly engaging book, leading to a quick read.

Absolutely lovely! I discovered this book on a trip to British Columbia and fell in love with the endearing stories. Blanche writes about her summers with her children traveling up and down the coast of British Columbia in their small trawler. She writes of a time gone by when life was abit more simple even if complex. Highly recommend.

What a wonderful, "feel good" read. I won't go into the story-line since it has been well discussed in other reviews. Suffice it to say that the stories of a widowed mother, boating around the British Columbia coastline with her 5 children in the 1920's & 30's is a remarkable story in itself. Capi Blanchet writes with an honest and very readable simplicity. I have sea kayaked many of the areas Blanchet wrote about, so the story stroke an intimate and personal chord as well. This is a great read for anyone interested in exploration and historical, small craft voyages. The only shortcoming (at least with the edition I have) is the lack of maps and nautical charts to help the reader place each trip in a geophysical context.

This is a fabulous book!! I have first read it years back, and recently took a freighter cruise in the same area. This was one brave and great mother for her children who accompanied her on the adventures. I decided to purchase a copy of this book so I could re-read it every now and then.

I gave this book 5 stars because it is a book full of stories, illustrated with lovely descriptions about the travels of a unique woman who chose to spend her summers exploring the shores of Vancouver island, the mainland and the many islands in between. Her writing is vivid, insightful and riveting. Great read!

An interesting read if you are familiar with the islands located within the inside passage of Vancouver Island and mainland B.C.. I've been to many of the locations the author covers in her book. At time a bit on the "folksy" side but still an interesting read about one tough lady who take herself and four young children on several on summer boating adventures in the waters off the B.C. Coast. .

I originally found Ms. Blanchet's book in a bibliography for an obscure book on kayaking and read it purely on speculation. I had no idea what I stumbled into. Now, having read it two more times and giving it as a gift on several occasions, I can say this is truly one of the most special books ever written. The stories of Ms. Blanchet and her children sailing up the Inside Passage during the 20's and 30's captured me in two ways. First was this mysterious window into a world long gone. Ancient native villages still looking as if their residents just left, lonely hermits on remote islands, a land unspoiled. Second was the story of a woman with an amazing strength and humble spirit. How she managed to use her dingy to tow the incapacitated power boat, disassemble the engine, then fix and restart a broken magneto is unbelievable, yet obviously true. I was inspired over and over again as has everyone I have given it to. I have space for exactly four favorite books in my library, I won't add another one unless one is removed. The Curve of Time will always be one of the four.

Wonderfully written book about a brave woman and her adventurous travels with her children. I took my time reading it because I didn't want the stories to end. Incredible to think all this took place nearly 100 years ago. Admiration for sure.

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