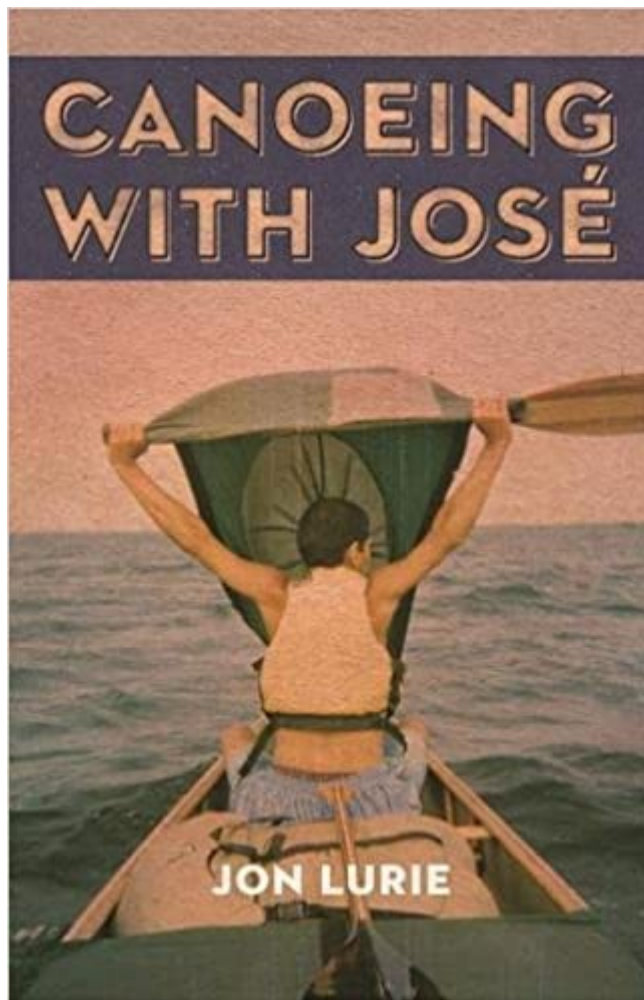


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# Canoeing With Jose



## Synopsis

The first time journalist Jon Lurie meets JosÃ©fÃ© Perez, the smart, angry, fifteen-year-old Lakota-Puerto Rican draws blood. Five years later, both men are floundering. Lurie, now in his thirties, is newly divorced, depressed, and self-medicating. JosÃ©fÃ© is embedded in a haze of women and street feuds. Both lack a meaningful connection to their cultural roots: Lurie feels an absence of identity as the son of a Holocaust survivor who is reluctant to talk about her experience, and for JosÃ©fÃ©, communal history has been obliterated by centuries of oppression. Then Lurie hits upon a plan to save them. After years of admiring the journey described in Eric Arnold Sevareid's 1935 classic account, *Canoeing with the Cree*, Lurie invites JosÃ©fÃ© to join him in retracing Sevareid's route and embarking on a mythic two thousand-mile paddle from Breckenridge, Minnesota, to the Hudson Bay. Faced with plagues of mosquitoes, extreme weather, suspicious law enforcement officers, tricky border crossings, and JosÃ©fÃ©'s preference for Kanye West over the great outdoors, the journey becomes an odyssey of self-discovery. Acknowledging the erased native histories that Sevareid's prejudicial account could not perceive, and written in gritty, honest prose, *Canoeing with JosÃ©fÃ©* is a remarkable journey.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Jon Lurie has worked as a wilderness guide, as a teen adviser at a Native American journalism program, and as an editor at the Anchorage Press and *The Rake*. His journalism has been

published in a wide range of publications including Metro magazine. A graduate of the MFA program in creative writing at the University of Minnesota, Lurie has taught creative writing at Macalester College and the University of Minnesota, where he currently teaches experiential learning. He serves as director of the Mother of Waters Project, a cultural outreach program that combines experiential learning with arts education, focusing on the health of Minnesota's fresh water resources. He lives in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

I really enjoyed this adventure story of two unlikely companions whose spiritual connection to each other and nature deepens throughout their journey. I was a bit worried at first b/c I don't know anything about canoeing but this turned out not be an issue, just make sure you know what gunwales are :)

What a unique, heartfelt personal narrative! I literally could not put this book down. Lurie paints beautiful visions of their journey using concise, descriptive language that instantly draws you in.

This a must have read for the summer if you have some down time due to rain or are trapped in the airport this book will bring to the north woods adventure.

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