



Sacred Sea: A Journey to Lake Baikal

By Peter Thomson

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Siberia's Lake Baikal is one of nature's most magnificent creations, the largest and deepest body of fresh water in the world. And yet it is nearly unknown outside of Russia. In *Sacred Sea*--the first major journalistic examination of Baikal in English--veteran environmental writer Peter Thomson and his younger brother undertake a kind of pilgrimage, journeying 25,000 miles by land and sea to reach this extraordinary lake. At Baikal they find a place of sublime beauty, deep history, and immense natural power. But they also find ominous signs that this perfect eco-system--containing one-fifth of earth's fresh water and said to possess a mythical ability to cleanse itself--could yet succumb to the even more powerful forces of human hubris, carelessness, and ignorance. Ultimately, they help us see that despite its isolation, Baikal is connected to everything else on Earth, and that it will need the love and devotion of people around the world to protect it.

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Sacred Sea: A Journey to Lake Baikal By Peter Thomson Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Environmental journalist Thomson, founding producer and senior editor of National Public Radio's *Living on Earth*, combines introspection with objective reporting in this engaging account of his six-month pilgrimage to Siberia's Lake Baikal, the deepest, oldest and supposedly purest body of fresh water on earth. Thomson includes everything from thoughts about his failed marriage and his relationship with his brother and fellow traveler James to colorful impressions of the people he meets as he documents his quest, shattering the myth of the lake's reputed capacity to cleanse itself. Researchers tell him that the air and water are full of thousands of tons of pollutants and contaminants from Baikal's paper mill and nearby farms, industry and power plants. Tiny filter-feeding shrimp do cleanse the water, but in the process they move the contaminants into the food chain and concentrate them, so the fish eaten by the people living around Lake Baikal now pose a serious health threat. Nevertheless, many Russians continue to believe that the waters of the Sacred Sea are pristine. Thomson's book is a lucid and sobering reminder of the destructive effects human activity has on the planet. Photos not seen by *PW*. (Sept.)

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Review

"Recently divorced and living out of boxes in his father's house in Boston...he quit his job as an environmental news producer for NPR and talked his younger half-brother into joining him on a round-the-world trip to a place where neither of them understood the language of the culture. The result is this superb paean to a unique and bizarre ecosystem." --New York Times

"His account of the journey is a hybrid of environmental reporting and personal travelogue....Readers will enjoy his accounts of meandering across the Pacific on a container ship with his younger brother, camping among Siberian aspens and feasting on reindeer meat under the northern lights."--Natural History

"Exhaustively researched and lyrically written- a welcome addition to any library."-- Kirkus Review

"Thomson's book is a lucid and sobering reminder of the destructive effects human activity has on the planet."-- Publishers Weekly

"Recommended for public libraries and undergraduate institutions with environmental history disciplines."-- Library Journal

"Traveling through woods, streams, hills, mountains, and pristine lakes, they had quite a voyage, and this in-depth recapitulation is absorbing in its detail."--Booklist

"It's a portrait of a place, its people, and its problems. It's also an honest look at how far we have to go to get home again."--The Phoenix

"The book is beautifully written and his descriptions make the landscape come alive: I couldn't help shivering when he jumps into the lake. As you travel with him you'll be transported far, far away - the perfect antidote to a dull day at the office."-- BBC Focus Magazine

"Sacred Sea tells the story of an unforgettable journey to an extraordinary place. More than a travelogue, the book is a meditation on faith and home and purity in a world marked by contamination and impermanence. For anyone who has ever thought of ditching it all and heading for the middle of nowhere, Peter Thomson offers a lesson both unsettling and surprisingly hopeful: there is no escape from humanity."-- David Baron, Public Radio's *The World*

About the Author

Peter Thomson is Founding Producer and Senior Editor of NPR's "Living on Earth" and recipient of 19 awards for excellence in broadcast journalism. He is currently a freelance environmental journalist and

member of Executive Committee of Society of Environmental Journalists.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Gabriel Reed:

Do you certainly one of people who can't read satisfying if the sentence chained from the straightway, hold on guys this specific aren't like that. This Sacred Sea: A Journey to Lake Baikal book is readable by means of you who hate the straight word style. You will find the details here are arrange for enjoyable reading experience without leaving also decrease the knowledge that want to supply to you. The writer associated with Sacred Sea: A Journey to Lake Baikal content conveys the idea easily to understand by many people. The printed and e-book are not different in the articles but it just different as it. So , do you nonetheless thinking Sacred Sea: A Journey to Lake Baikal is not loveable to be your top record reading book?

Mary Bolinger:

Reading a guide tends to be new life style in this era globalization. With reading you can get a lot of information that can give you benefit in your life. Together with book everyone in this world can easily share their idea. Textbooks can also inspire a lot of people. A lot of author can inspire their very own reader with their story or perhaps their experience. Not only the story that share in the guides. But also they write about the ability about something that you need example. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your kids, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors in this world always try to improve their ability in writing, they also doing some study before they write to the book. One of them is this Sacred Sea: A Journey to Lake Baikal.

Richard Cary:

This Sacred Sea: A Journey to Lake Baikal is great e-book for you because the content which can be full of information for you who have always deal with world and also have to make decision every minute. This book reveal it information accurately using great plan word or we can claim no rambling sentences within it. So if you are read the idea hurriedly you can have whole info in it. Doesn't mean it only provides you with straight forward sentences but challenging core information with attractive delivering sentences. Having Sacred Sea: A Journey to Lake Baikal in your hand like keeping the world in your arm, facts in it is not ridiculous just one. We can say that no book that offer you world inside ten or fifteen minute right but this publication already do that. So , it is good reading book. Heya Mr. and Mrs. occupied do you still doubt in which?

Denise Adams:

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