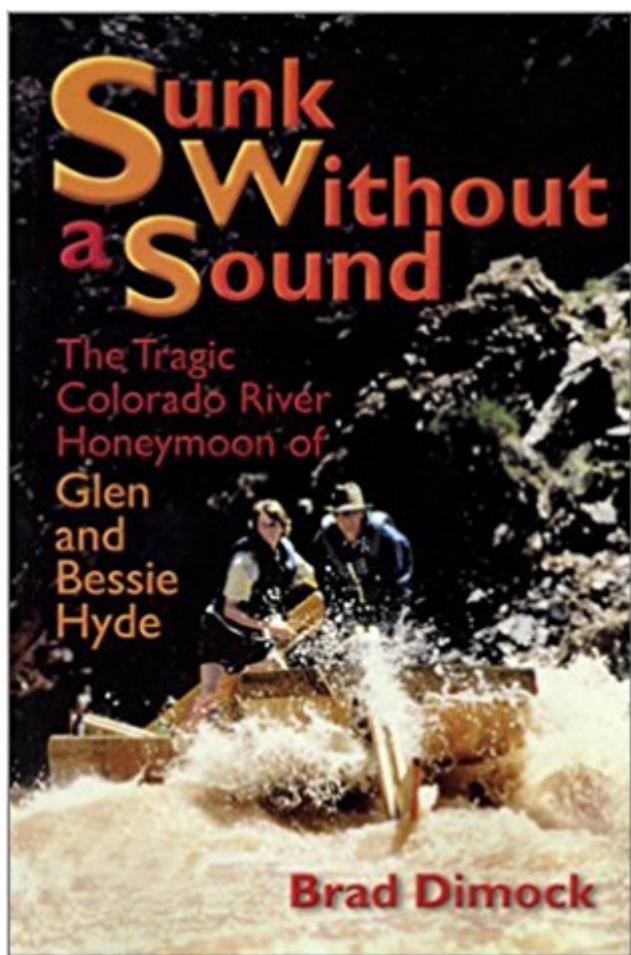


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Sunk Without A Sound : The Tragic Colorado River Honeymoon Of Glen And Bessie Hyde



Synopsis

The mystery of Glen and Bessie Hyde is whitewater navigation's equivalent to Mallory and Irvine's disappearance on Everest in 1924. Just four years later in October 1928, the Hydes, a bright, attractive, and talented young couple built their own wooden sweep scow and launched on a honeymoon voyage down the Green and Colorado Rivers through Grand Canyon. Bessie was the first woman to ever attempt the river. Halfway through Grand Canyon they talked to the press, then disappeared into the gloomy November depths of the gorge. They were never seen again. Despite an extensive series of searches, no trace was found except, eerily, their boat: upright, intact, fully loaded, and snagged in calm water. Glen and Bessie had vanished without a trace. For the next seven decades their tale evolved from simple facts to convoluted folklore and myth. A woman appeared on a river trip in 1971 claiming to be Bessie, having murdered Glen and hiked out. In 1976 a skeleton was found at Grand Canyon with a bullet through the skull. Size, age and circumstance suggested it was the body of Glen Hyde. In 1985 a woman surfaced with a tale of her father, Glenn Hyde, who had disappeared in 1928, but reappeared seven years later with tales of having rafted rivers. He said he had attempted the Colorado through Grand Canyon but "it didn't work out." And he carried a scar on his back from a knife wound, delivered by a woman named Bessie. And in 1992, when Georgie Clark, the most famous of all river runners, died, her past was discovered to be pure fiction. She had been born Bessie, and her lingerie drawer held a marriage record for Glen and Bessie Hyde. And a pistol. Author and boatman Brad Dimock tackled this story with an obsession, tracking each clue, lead, and rumor, even going to the extreme of building a replica of the Hydes' archaic sweep scow for a harrowing journey through Grand Canyon with his own bride. The resulting book, a masterful interweaving of past and present, of pathos and humor, is a classic in outdoor adventure, mystery writing, literary nonfiction, and investigative journalism. With 304 profusely illustrated pages, this beautiful book is not only a joy to look at, but a true page turner.

--This text refers to the Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

Combine the wild Colorado River, an adventuresome young couple, and their unexplained disappearance; add an anguished father; pile on rumor and speculation lasting 73 years; and then cap the story with meticulous research, and you have all the ingredients of a compelling mystery. Dimock, a white-water guide and one of the authors of the National Outdoor Book Award-winning *The Doing of the Thing*, has all the right credentials to investigate the disastrous honeymoon journey of Glen and Bessie Hyde through the Grand Canyon on an unwieldy Idaho sweep scow. Soon after the couple's disappearance in November 1928, Glen's father instigated an extensive search that lasted several months. Only the scow was recovered, fully loaded in calm water. Through the years, a woman claiming to be Bessie surfaced, a skeleton reputed to be Glen's was discovered in a shed at the canyon's southern rim, and the TV program *Unsolved Mysteries* featured the story in 1985. Dimock here provides a thorough history of Glen's and Bessie's backgrounds and even re-creates part of the Hydes' river route with his own wife in a homemade scow. Profusely illustrated with photographs and maps, this informative account is highly recommended for most public libraries and academic libraries in the region. Janet Ross, Sparks Branch Lib., NV Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.

"...Brad Dimock deserves a medal for bringing them back alive to confront us all. And it's a helluva read, too." -- Charles Bowden, author, *Blood Orchid*"With a gift for storytelling and the obsession of a sleuth, Brad Dimock captivates us..." -- Bruce Berger, author, *There Was a River*

I could NOT put down this book.Writing non-fiction well is an art, and clearly Dimock has this nailed. I, too, became as obsessed with the Hyde's story, as Dimock obviously did, because he leaves no stone unturned. Bohemian, educated, honeymooners sail out in a scow in 1928, hoping to claim fame over the Grand Canyon river rapids only to disappear without a trace, their scow floating along a gentle pool, all the gear aboard. Glenn Hyde's father, R.C. Hyde, and Bessie Hyde's father begin a search for them, never to find their bodies, but with strange clues and leads that go

nowhere. Then, wild stories years later including plausible theories, a skeleton with a bullet hole, Bessie look-a-likes. What's not to love? Best tale I've read in years. And if you're a wilderness lover, camper, or river-runner, this is your book. And, gotta love 's reviewers. Upon reading the reviews, I find Dimock's got another book. Like another reviewer put it, he's as good as Krakauer, so I'm going to order it, too.

I would have rated this book five stars were it not for the unnecessarily lengthy background information on Glen and Bessie Hyde at the start of the book, which made me want to skip forward to where the ill-fated voyage begins. I would have preferred a brief description of their background, as the main interest I had was in the circumstances of their mysterious disappearance. Other than that, it is a riveting account of what could have been a headline-making trip down the Colorado River gone terribly wrong. Mr. Dimock has a gift at making us care about Glen and Bessie, and Bessie's haunting poetry, inserted as epigraphs at the start of each chapter, adds a lot to the book. I would highly recommend this book to anyone interested in history and the Southwest.

This is a fabulous story. I wish I had read it before going to the Grand Canyon.

This was an excellent book and very well written. I love stories of mystery and stories of missing people. There is something so sad but interesting of people disappearing without a trace. This book had a great balance of story telling, facts about the river, and the history of Glen and Bessie Hyde. I read the book in one day because I couldn't put it down, the story captivated me.

I love this book Just this April, my wife and I visited the Grand Canyon for the first time together. For me, it was the first time ever. We mostly hiked here and there on the South rim and a bit down into the canyon, but it was nothing big, though it was pleasant. However, I was intrigued with the tales of Glen and Bessie and I wanted to know more. I got another Grand Canyon book through Inter-Library loan and it mentioned that a fellow named Dimock was in the process of publishing a book about them. So I finally got this book and devoured it, once I got my hands on it. This guy not only heavily researched the Hydes, he also built a similar boat and took it through the Grand Canyon, albeit with a sweep boat as back up. Then he went by kayak to personally survey the area where the Hydes most likely died. I admit to being taken aback a bit by the book cover, which shows two people in modern garb and wearing life preservers in whitewater. However, who is better to show there than the author and his wife on the replica of the Hydes' "Rain in the Face" while

barreling down what is presumably the Colorado River? I would even bet that this failed exploit provided the idea for Dana Lamb's book "Enchanted Vagabonds", in which he builds a boat and supposedly paddles it with his young wife all the way from California to Panama. However, Dana selected a route where cheating is possible. I want to thank Brad Dimock for answering all that can be reasonably yold about Glen and Bessie.

Outrageous adventures that capture the imagination, like Lindberg's trans-Atlantic flight, often personify the American spirit, especially in the youth of a new century. But the 1928 honeymoon excursion down the rapids of the Grand Canyon by Glen and Bessie Hyde ended in tragedy, their bodies never recovered, the whole trip shrouded in mystery. This book sets out to tell their story with as many facts as are available, recount the rescue efforts and determine some answers after all these years of speculation. After reading *Grand Ambition*, a novel by Lisa Michael's, about the couple's fateful honeymoon, I was curious to know more of the details and explore the lore surrounding the disappearance of Bessie and Glen. Author Dimock gathers what few pertinent facts are available and reconstructs the Hyde's journey, physically experiencing parts of it himself. He even builds a replica of their craft, hoping to ascertain what happened as they moved from one dangerous whitewater course to another. Literally, only speculation remains, because their flat-bottomed scow was found drifting, intact and packed with provisions with no evidence of the bodies. Did they die, or escape? The author also carefully goes over each step of the rescue party's unsuccessful search. As an extra service to the reader, he spends some time debunking the many urban legends that have sprung up over the years, passed from campfire to campfire, further clouding the truth. The most satisfying part of this book is Dimock's exacting concentration on each phase of the journey given the modernization of river rafting techniques and experience. Easy answers are simply not acceptable to Dimock, and he unfailingly covers every possible situation in the attempt to arrive at a feasible conclusion. In his conscientious writing, this author postulates some scenarios that set my mind at rest. When he fits the pieces of the puzzle together, it's as likely a fit as will be found at this time. And I was relieved to put aside those rumors and innuendoes told with a broad wink, because I would like to think of this couple in peace after such a short and harrowing twist of fate.

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