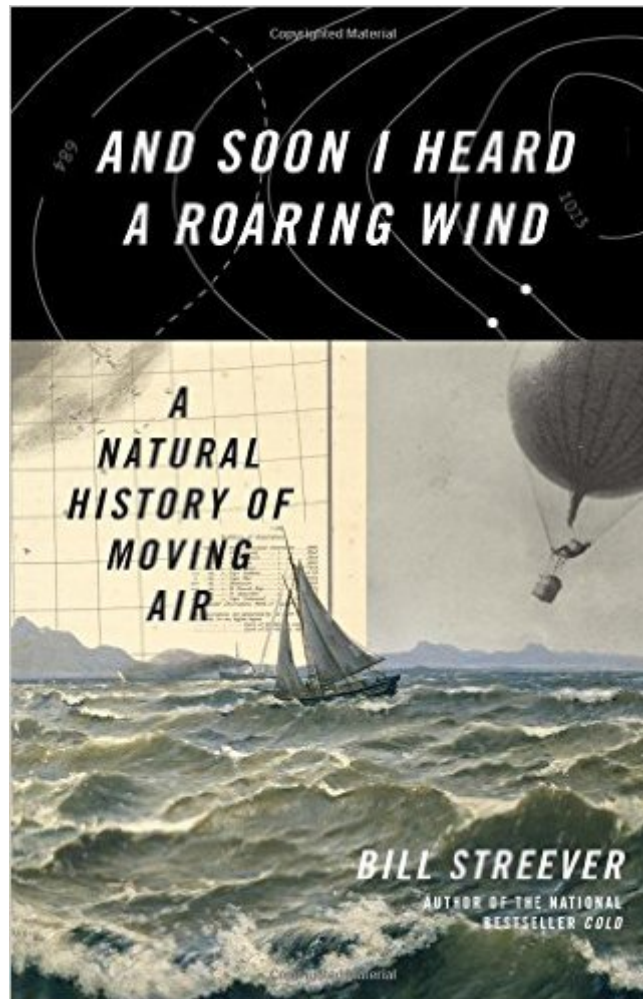


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And Soon I Heard A Roaring Wind: A Natural History Of Moving Air



Synopsis

A thrilling exploration of the science and history of wind from the bestselling author of *Cold*. Scientist and bestselling nature writer Bill Streever goes to any extreme to explore wind--the winds that built empires, the storms that wreck them--by traveling right through it. Narrating from a fifty-year-old sailboat, Streever leads readers through the world's first forecasts, Chaos Theory, and a future affected by climate change. Along the way, he shares stories of wind-riding spiders, wind-sculpted landscapes, wind-generated power, wind-tossed airplanes, and the uncomfortable interactions between wind and wars, drawing from natural science, history, business, travel, as well as from his own travels. *AND SOON I HEARD A ROARING WIND* is an effortless personal narrative featuring the keen observations, scientific rigor, and whimsy that readers love. You'll never see a breeze in the same light again.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have some trouble rating this book. It's the kind of book everyone should like: informative and witty. The author covers some history of wind science while recounting a sailboat journey he made with his wife from Texas to Guatemala. Unfortunately it didn't quite work for me, although it might well strike other readers differently. To start with, the balance between history, science and personal experience was unsatisfying. There are a few accounts of dramatic historical wind events, but not enough to get a sense of the variety and importance of wind. Moreover they all involve harm from wind, there are no stories of beneficial winds, or problems caused by lack of wind. These stories are not integrated into the science, the book does not explore why these exceptional events occurred,

nor why they were exceptional. Personal experience, on the other side, got too many pages. While the story of his sail would be dramatic if it actually happened to the reader, and would be above-average conversation if related by a close friend, it goes on way too long to interest a reader who does not know the author. He always refers to his wife as "my co-captain" and she is a shadowy and passive figure, which cuts the human interest by three quarters (two people on a sailboat are more than twice as interesting as one). The personal stories do give some human dimension to the historical and scientific dimension, but less would have been more. Science gets about the right amount of attention, but it lacks focus. Most of it concerns weather prediction. Obviously understanding wind is a crucial component of weather prediction, but there are other important aspects to weather and prediction, and reasons to understand wind other than issuing forecasts.

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