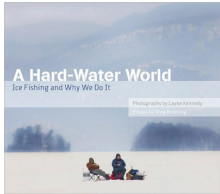


nel, both in-country and stateside, were ignorant of women's healthcare issues and exacerbated problems. A minority of female commanders and hostile or inadequately trained male commanders led to repeated rapes and sexual assaults.

Benedict's book, filled with compelling and heartbreaking stories, is a groundbreaking testament to the bravery, resilience, and almost insurmountable obstacles faced by women in stationed in Iraq. (April) *Deirdre Simmott*

SPORTS & RECREATION



A Hard-Water World: Ice Fishing and Why We Do It

**Greg Breining
Layne Kennedy,
photographer**

Minnesota Historical Society Press

Hardcover

\$24.95 (130pp)

978-0-87351-624-2

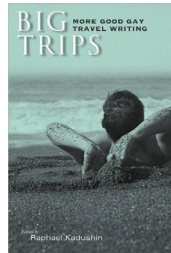
Two middle-aged guys decide to go ice fishing; they set up their jigs and wait, and wait, but have no luck. Not even ten feet away from them a boy catches fish after fish from his hole. One of the men asks the boy his secret. The boy replies, but his words are muffled. The man says that he cannot understand, and the boy spits a mouthful of worms into his own palm and says, "The fish like warm bait."

The above obviously is a meant to be a joke, but when it comes to the tactics and dedication of fishermen—let alone those of ice fishermen—there is no limit to pushing the envelope. Photographer Layne Kennedy and writer Greg Breining document and explore the idiosyncrasies and exploits of "ice anglers" from all over the world in their aptly titled and lavishly sparkling book, *A Hard-Water World: Ice Fishing and Why We Do It*. Kennedy's photographs have been published in *National Geographic Traveler*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Life*, *Newsweek*, *Smithsonian*, and many other magazines. Greg Breining, a former editor of the *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, is the author of the books, *Fishing Minnesota*, *Wild Shore*, and *Minnesota Yesterday & Today*. Research for this book has taken them all over the world, heeding the mysterious call of frozen bodies of water from Lake Superior to the Volga River in Russia. Their love of the outdoors and genuine appreciation and humility shown towards their subjects lends a self-deprecating humor to the book's rich prose and an essence to the photography that captures the reader's eyes, imagination, and heart. The essays and photos compliment each other so well that the book puts the reader on the ice.

A Hard-Water World is an invitation to join an elite group, to whom, Breining writes, "Ice fishing is...the best kind of fishing. These people like the cold, the ice, the roar of the auger, the

speed of the snowmobile, the thrill of driving on ice and the delicious taste of fish from clean, cold, water." Designed like a coffee-table book, but without pretension, *A Hard-Water World* moves the reader beyond the ergonomics of man and fishing into the dynamics of spirituality. *Lee Gooden*

TRAVEL



Big Trips: More Good Gay Travel Writing

Raphael Kadushin, editor
Terrace Books

Hardcover \$24.95 (308pp)

978-0-299-22860-6

A follow-up to the well-received *Wonderlands: Good Gay Travel Writing*, also edited by Raphael Kadushin, *Big Trips* doesn't suffer from sequel-itis, that peculiar malady that can strike a second volume of a strong anthology. Rather than throwing together more essays to satisfy demand, Kadushin mixes a beguiling collection of fiction and nonfiction with subjects that explore the globe, and just for good measure, he brings together well-known authors like Dale Peck, Edmund White, and even playwright Martin Sherman with up-and-coming writers.

What they all have in common is an understanding of travel as a catalyst, either for rollicking adventure, deep introspection, or even homesickness. Kadushin, an acquisitions editor at the University of Wisconsin Press, states some forceful and compelling opinions from the outset, and his articulated views shed light on why the pieces were chosen, and how they fit together.

Travel writing has become a mundane series of lists, he believes, like the "Top 10 Hotels" or travel tips that cull tourist must-see spots. The travel narrative has begun to lose the kind of gorgeous sense of otherness that compels so many to sojourn to unfamiliar environments. The reason for blending the work of gay authors, he posits, is that they're so adept at reading the social subtleties of alien lands. "[G]rowing up gay still means that even your hometown is a slightly foreign, unforgiving country," Kadushin writes. "And that in turn means every queer kid becomes a patient ethnographer who has to read his culture closely and decode the most subtle social signs, like a seasoned traveler, if he is going to stay safe."

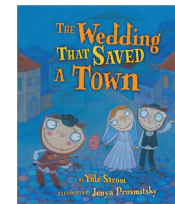
For the authors in *Big Trips*, this skill is obvious. There are many standouts in the collection, which is divided into two distinct sections: "Going Out" covers journeys of exuberance and hope, in which narrators see the world fresh; and "Coming Back" details the type of restless search for roots and home, the flipside of adventure. For example, in Trebor Healey's fictional "Saint Andy," a man is in the midst of bringing his lover's ashes across the United States, from

San Francisco, through the Cascade Mountains, and finally to New York. The story takes place in one extended scene, at a small town diner where he makes casual conversation that doesn't match the grief and rage in his mind. It's as if he's on two trips simultaneously, and the intersections can be powerful. By contrast, Dale Peck provides an extended riff on the clubs in London, and his breathless, stream-of-consciousness style captures the kind of hyper-awareness that excited travelers can feel.

Other pieces explore Corfu, Rome, Cairo, Florida, and encompass the work of thoughtful, playful, and well-versed travelers who know enough to look inward as they detail the landscapes they're seeing. *Elizabeth Millard*

Children's

PICTURE BOOK



The Wedding That Saved a Town

**Yale Strom
Jenya Prosmitsky,
illustrator**

Kar-Ben Publishing

Softcover \$7.95 (32pp)

978-0-8225-7380-7

Weddings are a facet of every culture, however their purposes and their customs vary greatly between cultures. Gaining an understanding of various customs often leads to cultural respect, and thus award-winning author Yale Strom's book can serve as a way to expose children to a traditional European Jewish wedding custom. Strom is also a renowned klezmer musician, filmmaker, and scholar of the Jewish faith.

In this modern folk-tale, the main character, Yiske, is asked to perform at a wedding. Yiske gladly accepts the offer, but he soon learns of the grim reasoning for the wedding. The people of the town are sick, and only a traditional "shvartzte chaseneh" can help lift the illness. Yiske then sets his mind to finding the perfect couple for the wedding in hopes of a cure. The last page of the book contains an author's note and a glossary of Yiddish words that are seen throughout the book.

Jenya Prosmitsky's illustrations are cartoon-like, bringing light to what may appear otherwise as a dismal tradition. Colorful and full of expression, they compliment Strom's strong characters. Prosmitsky grew up in the former USSR and has illustrated other children's books, including, *A Mink*, *A Fink*, *A Skating Rink: What is a Noun?* and *Hairy, Scary, Ordinary: What is an Adjective?*

The book is valuable for children and educators alike. For children, it is a hopeful and animated tale. For educators, the book can be used to enhance multiculturalism in the classroom. In addition, Jewish students might