

# One Last Cast: Reflections of an outdoor life

## Outdoor Journal



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cast.” The story, originally published in the *Calgary Herald* as were many of the pieces in the book, struck a chord with many parents who responded with e-mails, cards and phone calls.

Bruce’s book is not a guide book to the world of nature as he says in the introduction, “It is not a how-to book but a why-to book hopefully

helping people to get a clearer appreciation and understanding of wild places along with the critters and people that rely on them to live.”

Although the stories have widely different settings, since Bruce is a High River resident (currently a town councillor) they often are located in the magnificent natural world of our foothills and mountains. Many of us will recognize ourselves in that place and recall our adventures there.

One that resonated with me was “Touching the Pine” — that is the Boundary Pine so called by the rancher and writer Raymond Patterson. Bruce makes an annual ritual up Grass Pass in Kananaskis Country west of Longview to

touch this special tree. I too have touched the Boundary Pine.

His stories are often funny and self-deprecating. He tells of duck hunting from a boat in a marsh in the fog with beloved dog Belle, being disappointed at the appearance of another parked vehicle on shore. When he checked with binoculars he realized that it was his own; he had rowed in a circle in the mist. We read stories of fishing and hunting,

tales of his past growing up in Winnipeg and subsequent transplantation to Alberta. They all show the empathy that Bruce has for the world of nature and his attention to the details of that world.

Bruce has won numerous conservation and writing awards including the Alberta Order of the Big Horn. He was the first print journalist to win this for “outstanding contribution to Alberta’s fish and wildlife heritage.”

The editor of *Outdoor Canada Magazine* has this to say about *One Last Cast*: “Masterman has an enduring passion for the outdoors and an abiding eagerness to share that passion with others.”

*One Last Cast* is a great read and will encourage all of us to go outdoors to experience our natural world, a tonic for body and soul, as Bruce points out.

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*One Last Cast: Reflections of an Outdoor Life* is a selection of stories written by Bruce Masterman, well-known nature writer and journalist, published by Rocky Mountain Books. Bruce has had a 40-year career writing about the outdoors, including 21 years as nature columnist for the *Calgary Herald*. Subsequently he has been a full-time freelancer and a part-time instructor in journalism at SAIT in Calgary.

The title *One Last Cast* comes from a touching story that tells of a father teaching his two daughters to fly fish over a period of years and then just before he drives his daughter off to Lethbridge to university she pleads for “one last