

A Hard-Water World



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To the uninitiated, ice fishing seems improbable, wacky, and dangerous. But every winter, more than 2 million hardy northerners go to their place on the lake: literally on the lake. Striking story-telling photographs by Layne Kennedy and engaging essays by outdoor writer and fisherman Greg Breining capture the quirky world of ice fishing -- its natural beauty and solitary subzero vigils, along with its oddball practices and practitioners. Kennedy and Breining take readers to fun-filled if bizarre festivals that include "Guys on Ice" in Door County, Wisconsin, the Tip-Up Town USA festival on Michigan's Houghton Lake, and the supremely self-mocking International Eelpout Festival on Minnesota's Leech Lake, which honours a slimy, pot-bellied, finny critter. Photos offer peeks inside ice houses that range from a plastic-bag cocoon to an impossibly luxurious Adirondacks ice residence with front porch and wet bar. Travel to

a frozen lake in the Boundary Waters, to ice cities that form and disband overnight, and to the Volga River near Moscow, shadowed by the KGB. Perhaps most importantly, A Hard-Water World allows the reader to enjoy the beauty, wonder, and, yes, insanity of ice-fishing all year round and in the comfort of his or her own home.

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目录:

[A Hard-Water World_ 下载链接1](#)

标签

评论

[A Hard-Water World_ 下载链接1](#)

书评

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