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Chesapeake: The Aerial Photography Of Cameron Davidson



Synopsis

Nearly 10,000 years ago, rising sea levels filled a meteor-impact crater to form the Chesapeake Bay, North America's largest estuary, and the third largest in the world. The long tendrils of its watershed cover 64,000 square miles and span six states from Virginia to New York. Seventeen million people live within its boundaries. There are more than 100,000 streams, creeks, and rivers in the watershed, including 150 major rivers, with names that conjure ancient voices, such as the Susquehanna, Nanticoke, Mattaponi, and Rappahannock. These waters mix with the Atlantic Ocean in a brackish estuary that helped sustain Native Americans for centuries, but in recent years the bay has come under siege from the impacts of increasing population and industry, threatening this national treasure. Cameron Davidson has been shooting aerial photography of the Chesapeake over a period of twenty years. The view from this privileged vantage point reveals humans' impact on the land and the water. It yields an abstract beauty that is seldom seen, from the seven bends of the Shenandoah River to the important marshlands and islands of the watershed. Davidson's lens captures the changing seasons traced from the headwaters of the Susquehanna at Otsego Lake in Cooperstown, New York, to the mouth of the bay at Virginia Beach. Davidson's poetic pictures bear witness to the bay's vulnerability and the fragility of its future. Davidson's stunning full-color photography is arranged geographically and accompanied by the words of David Fahrenthold, who has written extensively about the Chesapeake Bay and other environmental topics for the Washington Post.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Cameron Davidson is an aerial and location portrait photographer based in Virginia. He shoots on assignment for a variety of print publications, including Vanity Fair, National Geographic, and Smithsonian and his work has been profiled in Communication Arts, Photo/Design, and Print magazines. His work has received awards in the Communication Arts Photo Annual, Graphis Photo, Print Design Annual, and the Pictures of the Year competition. He has published five books of photography, including, most recently, Washington D.C. from Above. David Fahrenthold, a native of Houston, Texas, has worked for the Washington Post since 2000. He has covered the environment, writing about the Chesapeake Bay, climate change, mountaintop coal mining, and other topics both local and national.

Having grown up on the southern portion of the bay, I spent the majority of my childhood exploring its many beautiful shorelines. Often seeking the fish that haunt the bay's magical waters, some of my best memories are directly tied to the splendor and magnificent imagery the Chesapeake had to offer. My travels away from the area allowed for short glimpses of the bay from the vantage point of airplane windows, often heavily etched by wear. These short air-bound episodes offered a time to view the intricate beauty of the Chesapeake from a whole new perspective. Cameron Davidson has been able to recreate these moments that were once trapped in my mind and give them a physical form exceeding much further than my memory. He has created a wonderful collection of images from the northern stretches of the Chesapeake to the intersection of the bay and the Atlantic. Chesapeake captures not only the beauty of the bay but the varied human activities that define and are embedded in the culture of the Chesapeake Bay.

I live in the widespread region of the Chesapeake watershed and consider the Chesapeake the east-coast equivalent of the West Coast's magnificent Puget Sound. This book brings out the beauty of the Bay, which is endangered, and the entire watershed. I can only hope that, through its power, it inspires an understanding of an asset that not only is beautiful but essential to our regional economy.

Excellent photos - purchased a sample from and ended up reaching out directly to the photographer for a large order and he even signed each copy for me! Highly recommend.

Admittedly I have an attraction for all things "Chesapeake Bay" related. I had high expectations

when I heard about this book of aerial photography of the Bay, and Cameron Davidson did not disappoint-with the possible exception of the fact that his beautiful work left me wanting more!

Wonderful photos. Could have had some additional explanations of the photos but the book captures the essence of the Great Bay.

Beautiful photography of one of our nation's greatest natural resources. Books like this remind us of why we need to save them.

I live on the Chesapeake but from the ground my view is limited so this book tells a great story about a very important part of eastern America.

I grew up in up-state New York and my favorite teenage drive in a old Opel was to a ridge that divides and looks down on the Susquehanna and Hudson valleys. I could look north to the Adirondacks and south to the Catskills and Helderbergs. Instead of that single point of view Davidson takes his eye and his camera all over that entire southern range - Finger Lakes, Susquehanna, bay to the Atlantic. If he didn't share what he saw one should be jealous. But Davidson has shared his unique aerial views that most of the rest of us can only imagine. Occasionally towns and industry but mostly land, serpentine rivers and creeks, the bay, and sky. And what marvelous textures has he captured! The book makes me feel as though I'd ballooned over the entire length of the bay.

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