



One Man's Journey

A film trilogy by Robert Perkins



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Series Description

Personal and geographic journeys collide in this intimate, first person portrait of naturalist-explorer Robert Perkins. The three-part series, filmed over eighteen years, chronicles Perkins's adventures in his canoe as he discovers new terrain and insight on life. "One Man's Journey" begins in 1987, as Perkins embarks on a seventy-two day solo journey in the Canadian Arctic and discovers the trip helps him make peace with his ailing father. Part two picks up six years later, as Perkins and his girlfriend struggle to cope with her devastating breast cancer diagnosis. Finally, in part three, Perkins teams up with a guide from Zimbabwe for a 1,000-mile trip down the Limpopo River in southern Africa. Together, the trilogy is a remarkable story about personal struggles, cherished relationships, and the joy of discovery in the most beautiful surroundings.

Episode Descriptions

Into the Great Solitude, 60 minutes

Airing Thursday, January 13, at 10 P.M. (check local listings)

Filmed in 1987, this classic outdoor adventure film tells the story of Robert Perkins' seventy-two day solo canoe journey in the Canadian Arctic. Perkins not only takes on arduous physical challenges, but also lyrically describes in film and language how the journey helps him make peace with his ailing father.

Talking to Angels, 60 minutes

Airing Thursday, January 20, at 10 P.M. (check local listings)

Robert Perkins and his girlfriend, Dr. Irene Goodale, document their parallel but separate journeys as the two struggle to cope with her breast cancer diagnosis. He returns to the Canadian Arctic while she remains in Boston to receive medical treatments. The film weaves together their video diaries to create a moving story about love in the face of adversity.

The Crocodile River, 60 minutes

Airing Thursday, January 27, at 10 P.M. (check local listings)

Crossing international borders and emotional boundaries enables two people of vastly different cultures—one American and one African—to find common ground. This contemporary film begins when Perkins embarks on a ten-week exploration of the Limpopo River in southern Africa with Bongus Lunga, a Zimbabwean man who had never before left his small village. Perkins's initial goal is to investigate the Africa behind the headlines, but he soon finds himself challenging his own assumptions and stereotypes about Africans. Both travelers come to unique discoveries about the river, its region, its people, and each other. The result is a remarkable tale of friendship and the discovery of joy, resilience, and human connection amidst political and economic suffering.