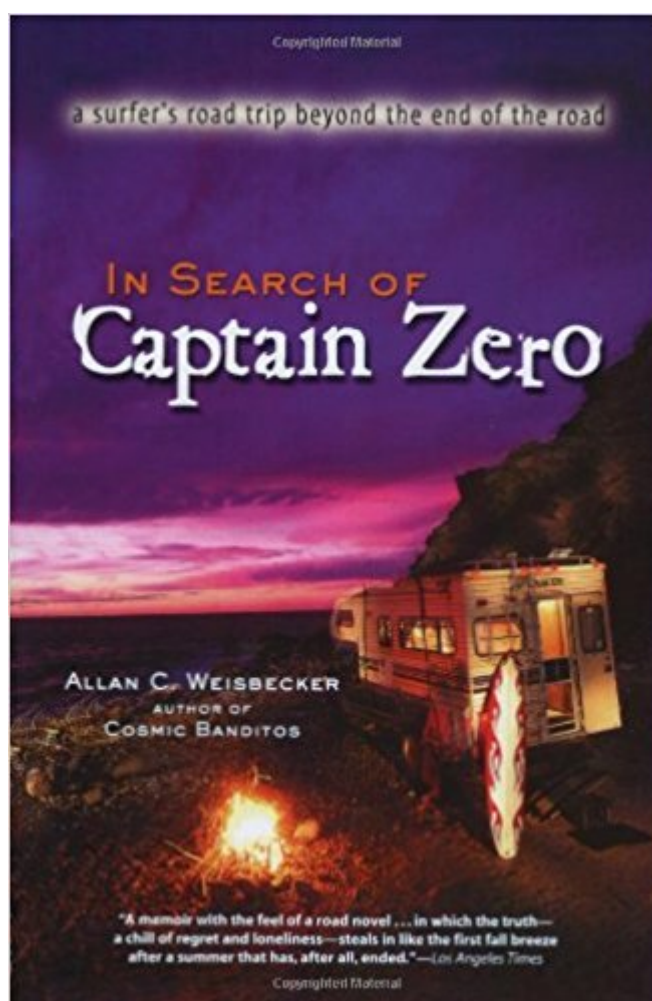


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# In Search Of Captain Zero: A Surfer's Road Trip Beyond The End Of The Road



## Synopsis

In 1996, Allan Weisbecker sold his home and his possessions, loaded his dog and surfboards into his truck, and set off in search of his long-time surfing companion, Patrick, who had vanished into the depths of Central America. In this rollicking memoir of his quest from Mexico to Costa Rica to unravel the circumstances of Patrick's disappearance, Weisbecker intimately describes the people he befriended, the bandits he evaded, the waves he caught and lost en route to finding his friend. *In Search of Captain Zero* is, according to *Outside* magazine, "A subtly affecting tale of friendship and duty. [It] deserves a spot on the microbus dashboard as a hell of a cautionary tale about finding paradise and smoking it away." *In Search of Captain Zero: A Surfer's Road Trip Beyond the End of the Road* is a Booksense 76 Top Ten selection for September/October.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In 1966, Allan Weisbecker "made a Manhattan run from the landlocked suburbs" to take in a siren-song movie called *The Endless Summer*, a documentary that depicted the carefree life of two beach bums who roamed the world in quest of the perfect wave. Weisbecker was hooked, and he became a hardcore wave rider, a fixture on the Long Island surf scene. With a friend, Christopher, he also undertook illegal ways to finance his passion, transporting drugs from exotic countries, a business only briefly interrupted when Christopher went off to Vietnam. There he took fire and came home scarred; something in him changed, and one day he simply vanished. Weisbecker's book, a sort of gonzo detective story blended with travelogue and peppered with hang-10 jargon, does

many things, all of them very well indeed. It offers up a vision of innocent times brought to ruin by war and drugs; it recounts his search for his lost friend, whose life had gone from bad to worse far away from home; and it affords a look inside the strange culture of surfing, whose masters "understood, in a visceral and soulful and inexpressible way, the machinations of the sea, and, by subtle inference, the universe at large." Full of regret and exhilaration, Weisbecker's memoir is a fine chronicle of a dream gone sour and a friendship redeemed. --Gregory McNamee --This text refers to the MP3 CD edition.

The foundation of Weisbecker's book packing all of his belongings and his dog into a camper and heading for Central America in search of surf and self, a couple of years short of his 50th birthday has all the makings of a trite, midlife crisis memoir. But the author's flair for describing natural beauty, and his strong sense of narrative rhythm and uncompromising candor, make for a lovely personal reflection that mixes the right amount of dreamy meditation with page-turning allure. Weisbecker (Cosmic Banditos) leaves his Long Island home in search of his childhood friend Christopher, who undertook a similar journey five years earlier and whose only correspondence has been a cryptic postcard signed "Captain Zero." Interspersed in Weisbecker's reports of the people he meets and his neatly composed descriptions of surfing are stories from his past that pace the book, including a hilarious account involving Christopher, an 80-foot banana boat, 10 tons of Colombian marijuana and the front yard of an unsuspecting homeowner on the Housatonic River. Weisbecker clearly delights in storytelling as much as he enjoys language itself, though his writing can get top-heavy; he describes a friend's pest problem as "a zoomorphically motile disarrangement of darting mini-saurians along with fist-sized arachnids and their flossy nets." But usually his imaginative power is better spent, as when he describes an approaching thunderstorm: "The air is charged, buzzing and tingly with ionic discharge seeking ground; then with blinding, brittle bolts that air erupts, illuminating like overexposed photographs the landscape and adjoining sea." Such imagery with a balance of pathos and humor make Weisbecker's account very worthwhile reading. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the MP3 CD edition.

I was really excited to read this book and just so disappointed. It's written in a very strange way that is just hard to understand. The authors very unlikeable for example, "I dont care if someone's breaking into someone's place to steal because it's their absolute last option and they have a family, they deserve to be shot in the head." Also the story jumps around too much to random factual things that have nothing to do with the story. The only thing that kept me going to 3/4 of the story was the

funny flashbacks of transporting marijuana. But besides that this book is a boring headache that could have been such a wonderful story

What a great read! I'm an avid surfer and also a vanlife enthusiast. Reading a greatly written story about someone fleeing the country to live in their camper and surf their way down through Mexico and Central America hits home for me. I enjoyed every minute of my read and if you have any common interests in these things I strongly suggest picking this book up and giving it a go. I'm willing to bet you'll end up snagging his other books as well!

Heart of Darkness meets Barbarian Days, with a little drug running thrown in. This is Weisbecker's best work and shows him as a master story teller. The stories of pot smuggling are hilarious and frightening, the highlight of the book for me. It is a page turner and hard to put down once you get started. It helps if you are a surfer to get into this, but I think anyone who likes adventures would enjoy this.

great fun story of adventure!

First of all, dont look at the back cover, it gives something away. I read that in a review before I purchased it and made sure I avoided it at all costs. Upon completing the book, I finally read the quote on the rear and am SO glad i took this course of action. It would have totally ruined the story. However, having not read the back cover, i can say I totally enjoyed this story. I dont surf, but reading this I could definitely appreciate what a good wave means. The narrative is strong and the stories of the authors past are incredible.

A continuous laugh out loud rollicking surfing adventure down the west coast into central America, with lots of background stories told of Allan Weisbecker's previous incarnation as a pot smuggler in the seventies...totally entertaining!

I was loaned this book while surfing in Costa Rica and promptly felt the need to lend it to some other traveler. I then went off and bought another copy for myself and to lend out, which I have on several occasions. Funny, authentic feeling, and gripping. Probably the best book on surfing I've read (not that I've read a bunch). Also of interest is the back-and-forth between the author and readers of his book who have reviewed it (and is often contentious).

Whereas Weisbach's book could have used a little tighter editing (it is considerably over long), Weisbach, a child of the 60s, is a powerful story teller with a nice turn of phrase, and an insiders perspective (sorry, my apostrophe key is blotto) of not one, but two exclusive and machismo fraternities (but im not giving them away). His passion for the nomads life, hard core surfing ability, extraordinary survival skills (some might say fortune), immense cojones, and larger than life experiences make this an exciting read. Weisbach offers his ruminations on the mechanics and metaphysics of surfing, wave dynamics, and the Surfers Path (as we call it) as well. That said, if you are not a surfer or water man/woman, you might better read Ulysses. kcl

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