

PADDLE TO SEATTLE: JOURNEY THROUGH THE INSIDE PASSAGE
86-Minute Seamless Transcript

[01:00:07.02] Josh Thomas: It's one thing to come up with an idea for a film, you know, the idea of going on an amazing adventure, but if you're going to make a movie about it, you've got to have a name, a name that just grabs people and brings them into the story, and I had this awesome title in my mind forever, you know, even as a kid, I remember thinking, this title can be used somewhere in my life...

[01:00:37.01] J.J. Kelley: And he said, Come with me, you know, I, I've got this special idea for the film that we need to make and he wouldn't even allow anybody else in the room. It was just the two of us, and he closed the doors behind him, and, and he said that, you know that, that kayaking trip we're going to do, I've got the name that's going to make this film, and it's gonna, this title's gonna take me places. And that title was 'Into the Wild'. And he was so excited. You should have saw his face light up when he told me 'Into the Wild'. And I remember thinking, you know, you don't, don't fully focus on that idea, my friend, there are other ideas that we can um, name this film.

[01:01:13.15] Josh Thomas: What I didn't know for a long time was that that, that title had been taken. It was a book that had been turned into a feature film.

[01:01:25.16] J.J. Kelley: He got very, very down for quite a while, and he went into seclusion, and he just started brainstorming.

[01:01:37.05] Josh Thomas: I'm like, don't worry JJ, you know, this is once I got over it, I'm like, I got

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some more ideas for a title for this film, and I just started rattling them off. "Who's the Boss?", "Three's Company", "Bay Watch", "What's Happening?", "The A Team", "Mr. Belvedere" - all taken.

[01:01:58.22] J.J. Kelley: These are not original ideas.

[01:02:01.22] Josh Thomas: "Who's the Boss?" that one's, that one I sh-, I mean, do I even need to explain "Who's the Boss?". That title would have worked great, because once again, it's two of us out here, we're constantly making decisions on even where to land, what we're going to eat for lunch.

[01:02:16.14] J.J. Kelley: These are shows from your childhood that you somehow thought that you created and made a list when you were a young man, but they're not your ideas, and we can't use these, and, and you have to get over that.

[01:02:36.07] Josh Thomas: I mean, you always ask yourself, Who's the boss here? Who's the boss? And essentially nobody's the boss, right? You know, we're just doing the job and we're both, maybe we're both the boss. I don't know.

[01:02:54.21] Josh Thomas: So how did we come up with the name "Paddle to Seattle"? I think it's pretty straightforward. We ran-, we, all our ideas were taken. It's all we had. Essentially (unintelligible), we're paddling to Seattle. I really like "Perfect Strangers". I

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thought that would have worked well.

[01:03:29.05] J.J. Kelley: It's June 18th, three days before the first day of summer, the solstice. It's very uncommon to find snow this high in the mountains, even this late in the year, but we're going to take advantage of it and have a little sledding party today. And a lot of the things that we do before we get going are physical conditioning. That's why we're climbing Bear Mountain today.

[01:03:47.29] Josh Thomas: You guys ready?

Background voice: Yeah!

[01:03:48.28] Josh Thomas: Let's do it! Whoooo!

[Background shouts of excitement]

[01:04:08.19] Josh Thomas: In a straight line, I guess you could, you could say the coast is about twelve hundred miles long, but they do call it the inside passage for a reason. A lot of it is protected by islands and small inlands and waterways, lots of coves and fiords where the mountains meet the ocean, a lot of it's remote, uninhabited. And there's a lot of water that's gonna be covered. We're just going to wing it.

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[01:04:36.22] J.J. Kelley: This what we're going to use for the first part of trip. Our own personal gear's here, camera equipment, food. Just in case you're wondering, we're not going to be kayaking with the boxes. These are resupplies that we're going to send to ourself. Beyond that, this is all of our gear, minus the office chair and this garbage.

[01:05:03.17] Josh Thomas: Well, the, the first thought was, no, you know, still, I don't want to do it, you know, I want to go to Alaska this spring, I just spent all winter working, just want to go home and play, it's just not f-, you know, it didn't seem fun to me, it didn't seem like a good idea. And I got back to Alaska, there were two kayak kits here in, in a cardboard box. And it was a lot of work. Two months. Two months and two kayaks. We've been talking about it for two years now and the past six months have been the, the culmination, you know. I am super psyched.

[01:05:42.18] J.J. Kelley: The wild thing is you can see, if you put your hand under it-

[01:05:46.03] Josh Thomas: Is that your hand? Yeah...look at the finger.

[01:05:49.25] Josh Thomas: That it does have epoxy and fiberglass on the inside now, so that's what's supposed to make it strong. Still not really convinced yet. We'll see how they do on the water.

[01:06:24.08] J.J. Kelley: We are about a mile away from Bear Glacier, and it's a real opportunity to get

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a chance to come in here. This is a glacier that doesn't quite calve all the way into the sea. Because it's receded back, all the water's collected into a lake, and if you know when to enter and where to enter, you can paddle into some of the most pristine, beautiful icebergs you'll ever see.

[01:06:50.22] Josh Thomas: It's like a maze in here. A giant maze.

[01:07:08.09] Josh Thomas: This is the first time out on the water, are they meeting your expectations?

[01:07:12.11] J.J. Kelley: Yes. In terms of it being a stable boat, check. In terms of it being gorgeous and beautiful, check. Now the only thing unchecked is comfort. Can we fit all the gear in here? I think so. They're pretty spacious boats.

[01:07:26.10] Josh Thomas: And these are going to be the vessels that are going to capture a pretty cool story. I'm excited about it.

[01:07:44.01] J.J. Kelley: If we're going to do this project, if we're going to do this paddle, we've got to have a good idea how to do a roll. When the hypothermia threshold is fifteen minutes and the shore is a mile away, and you're losing so much energy with every stroke, with every breath, you won't make it. You have to be able to get back in the boat and then paddle to shore and get dry clothes on.

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[01:08:08.06] J.J. Kelley: You try and you fail, you try and you fail, and you try and you fail. And before you get down on yourself, you get one and then you get another and then you start to pile them up.

[01:08:24.23] J.J. Kelley: Whew! Yeah.

[01:08:28.01] J.J. Kelley: We did it. Victory team paddled to Seattle.

[01:08:38.26] Josh Thomas: Looking out onto that horizon and it slowly getting bigger hour after hour, and thinking, we're really signing ourselves up for something great here. This is going to be easily the biggest challenge of my life, easily the hardest thing I've ever done.

[01:08:59.13] Background voice: Need (unintelligible)

Voice: Yeah

[01:09:04.18] Josh Thomas: The timing was perfect. We wanted to start on the tsunami warning of the month. We got it.

[01:09:12.11] Interviewer: Here on National Geographic Weekend, we're talking to two young ad-, uh, adventurers. J.J.'s here in the studio with us and Josh is up in uh, Alaska. You guys finished the Appalachian Trail together, is that it? You didn't start out together, but you

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finished together, is that right, JJ?

[01:09:24.20] J.J. Kelley: Yeah, pumping water I met a young fellow and we started hiking together, and we hiked together for a couple of weeks, and we said, You know, we don't need two first aid kits, we don't need two tents, we just started to get reliant on each other and that was Josh.

[01:09:34.25] Interviewer: So, JJ and Josh had completed the Appalachian Trail together, then decided, All right, let's go off and do some more adventures. Essentially you started in Seward, and that would be the bottom of Alaska and bicycle all the way up to the top, to the Arctic Ocean. So now you're going to do another Alaska adventure, and the idea is to build wooden kayaks and you're going to go from, Where are you going to start? Skagway, is it?

[01:09:54.24] Josh Thomas: Skagway, Alaska

[01:09:56.11] Interviewer: -on the inside passageway and then paddle all the way down to uh, to Seattle.

[01:09:59.00] Josh Thomas: It's the most challenging and scenic passageway in North America.

[01:10:02.13] Interviewer: And how long do you think this will take you, Josh?

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[01:10:04.22] Josh Thomas: We're looking at about two and a half months, but we've, neither of us have time constraints, so we're going to take our time and do it right and poke into every little nook and cranny that we can.

[01:10:13.29] Interviewer: Good talking with you guys, and good luck on the trip.

[01:10:18.23] J.J. Kelley: Today's the day that Paddle to Seattle is supposed to start. Unfortunately, there's a small craft advisory, which stinks. We've been ready to paddle for a couple days now, feels like we've been preparing for this trip forever. Small craft advisory's 25 knot winds, four foot plus seas and a real discouragement, especially if it's right in your face when you get going.

[01:10:41.06] Josh Thomas: I think that I have everything I need for the trip. I feel like we might have too much stuff, it's a little bit leery having never put all of our stuff in the kayaks before. But if we get down to the boatyard early enough, and play around with it, I think we can definitely fit everything in these kayaks. I hope we can.

[01:10:58.00] Josh Thomas: People are kind of harassing us cause we don't have, we're not carrying a gun. We just carrying bear mace, and hopefully just smart camping and clean camping practices will keep us out of trouble. But uh, yeah, the bears make me a little bit nervous.

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[01:11:14.28] J.J. Kelley: You're going to be paddling for sometimes two hours at a stretch, sometimes longer than two hours at a stretch without getting out of these kayaks.

[01:11:22.20] Josh Thomas: Sitting on your butt for six, eight hours a day is gonna, that's what's gonna wear on me, not being able to, to use certain muscles.

[01:11:31.03] J.J. Kelley: It's Day Two and it's still windy and rainy. The rain doesn't bother us, but it's a twenty knot wind that is building all day.

[01:11:38.11] Josh Thomas: Once again, we're forced to spend another weather day at our camp site here. Uh, we got a call this morning from a friend that we made over the weekend. She runs a summer camp for ten to twelve year old kids and they are going to come out here and check us out.

[01:11:54.01] J.J. Kelley: So, we're going to be starting these kayaks tomorrow, and we're going to be paddling them all the way until Halloween.

Kids: Whoa

[01:12:02.14] J.J. Kelley: What's that?

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[01:12:03.12] Child: How do you get to pee?

[01:12:04.25] J.J. Kelley: How do we get to pee? Well-

Child: in the canoe

[01:12:08.24] J.J. Kelley: What's that?

[01:12:09.12] Child: How do you get to pee in the Chicago?

[01:12:13.15] J.J. Kelley: Well, what we do, like to go to the bathroom? Use like a, a water bottle like that one and we'll just, we'll make it-

[01:12:24.10] Child: Make it a pee?

[01:12:26.13] J.J. Kelley: Yeah, we'll label it pee so nobody ever drinks out of it. And we'll use it, and then we'll jump dump it in the ocean.

[01:12:32.10] Child: How about your poop?

[01:12:35.25] J.J. Kelley: Well, with that, you either can dig a hole that's deep, or you have to actually do it in the ocean, like go down to the water line-

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[01:12:42.13] Child: Ew

[01:12:44:00] J.J. Kelley: That way the water takes it away. Yeah, I know, I'm not excited about it either. But even these cruise ships, all these big boats that come in, that's what they do. They'll take the, the waste of 3000 people and dump it into the ocean. We're just two people.

[01:13:07.23] Josh Thomas: Action

[01:13:11.13] J.J. Kelley: Here we go. The Paddle to Seattle starts right now.

Josh: Uh!

J.J.: Right here

Josh: Uh!

J.J.: The Paddle to Seattle starts right now. I feel good.

Josh: Let's do it.

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[01:13:20.15] Josh Thomas: Whooo! Yeah!

[01:13:46.00] J.J. Kelley: Well, it's Day One of ninety days, the conditions couldn't be a whole lot worse.

[01:13:51.00] Josh Thomas: We're at Lynn Canal, and we're seeing winds of upwards to twenty knots and we're going into 'em.

[01:13:57.02] J.J. Kelley: There's nowhere to land our boats until we get to Haines, sixteen miles from here.

[01:14:02.08] Josh Thomas: We found a small cove, if you could call it that just to get us out of the wind for a little while before we make our first crossing.

[01:14:09.01] J.J. Kelley: And my feet fell asleep in the first fifteen minutes of paddling. Right now, everything below my waist is totally gone. I can't even feel it anymore. Beyond that we're doing pretty good.

[01:14:20.13] Josh Thomas: Yeah, it's looking pretty nasty, but, I guess, you've just got to go for it.

[01:14:29.06] Radio: Tuesday. Lynn Canal north of Berners Bay. Tonight, south wind 20 knots diminishing late. Seas four feet. Rain-

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[01:14:36.16] J.J. Kelley: That was the nastiest conditions I've ever seen kayaked in my life. Easy 30 knot gusts, four foot seas.

[01:14:42.22] Josh Thomas: So we're about, so we're about five miles outside of Skagway.

[01:14:46.17] J.J. Kelley: And the worst part is, our kayaks are taking on water. A lot of water. This is the water proof hatch right here.

[01:14:57.16] Josh Thomas: It's like, wow, this is day number one? We're in this canal that's, you know, a couple hundred miles from the open ocean, why is it like this? We were used to paddling around open ocean.

[01:15:07.17] J.J. Kelley: I found my limits today. If it would have been any worse, if it would have been five knots worse, or we had to go another mile, I found my limits. I couldn't have gone much further, seriously. It was [beep] awful.

[01:15:19.12] Josh Thomas: And we've just, we've just been seeing other tour boats and ferry boats cruising by. They'll, they'll change their course and they'll come right for us.

[01:15:26.18] Josh Thomas: Kayaker Josh on ten.

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Radio: How are we doing, guys?

[01:15:29.29] Josh Thomas: You can see the captain or deck hand on top and he'll look and he's looking through his binoculars making sure you're all right. We give them the thumbs up, and they're just like, All right, who is, who are these guys?

[01:15:40.18] Radio: OK. Copy that, yeah, we'll keep checking on you, and like I say, if you need uh, need a pick-up, just give us a shout.

[01:15:45.15] J.J. Kelley: 'preciate it

[01:15:46.22] Josh Thomas: Yeah. We really appreciate it. Thanks a lot. Josh out.

[01:15:50.03] J.J. Kelley: We've been stranded on this beach for the last twenty hours, and the weather's only going to get worse. We have a small window. The wind right now is probably about twenty-two knots, about as bad as you'd ever want to kayak in, but we gotta get out of here or we're going to be stranded for two more days.

[01:16:27.09] J.J. Kelley: Guess what, Josh?

Josh: What's that?

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[01:16:29.04] J.J. Kelley: We made it to Haines.

Josh: This is Haines?

J.J.: This is Haines.

Josh: It's nice.

J.J.: Looks like a nice place.

[01:16:35.09] Josh Thomas: If we can make it to Haines, we can make it to Seattle. That's just a feeling.

[01:16:44.15] Josh Thomas: What a beautiful night for a paddle.

[01:16:54.28] Josh Thomas: So it's 9:30 in the evening, water couldn't be better, this is one of the big advantages of just taking a nap during the day and waiting for the wind to die down. It's totally worth it.

[01:17:08.08] J.J. Kelley: We've been paddling some five or six days and covering five or six miles a day if we're lucky and today the water's so calm, and beautiful, we've just been able to fly, and it's a real spirit booster.

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[01:17:24.15] J.J. Kelley: All right, look, I'm going to break it down to you, and I don't tell this to everybody, and I only say it because Josh isn't here. But I don't trust that guy for a second. This morning when I was eating breakfast, I turned away, I had a whole bowl of granola, it had butter in it, honey, it was delicious. I turned away and it was gone, and I was like, Dude, what happened to my granola, and he's like, You already ate it, but I know he ate it. And here's another example, he just killed that steller sea lion. He just killed that steller sea lion over there. It didn't do anything, but you gotta watch out for this guy.

[01:17:59.27] J.J. Kelley: Give me something crazy right now. Just, that was pretty crazy.

[01:18:04.12] Josh Thomas: I call this one the choo-choo train.

J.J.: Ooo, I wanna-

[01:18:06.27] Josh Thomas: I don't, I'm not a fighter. I'm not a fighter, but if I've gotta fight, you're probably going to get poked in the eyes and you're probably going to get a wedgie.

[01:18:32.01] J.J. Kelley: So, señor, can you believe it? This is Juneau, Alaska. Welcome to the state capital. And this might as well be an island, cause there are no roads here, and as far as I know, it's the only capital with a glacier in the background. And man, does it rain

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here! They say Seattle's a rainy city. It rains three times more than in Seattle. Post office is, somewhere over there.

[01:18:53.05] Josh Thomas: Yeah.

[01:18:55.27] J.J. Kelley: No, I think over that way. Well, it seemed like a pretty good take until that guy asked me where the post office was.

[01:19:12.00] Josh Thomas: It's been almost two weeks now since we've been able to use our legs, and we're going to take this opportunity to get a bird's eye view of Juneau, Alaska.

[01:19:26.06] Josh Thomas: Man, it's a long-

[01:19:35.05] Josh Thomas: What, what do you think, man? It's a long walk, but it's sure worth the view. That just sounds so bad.

[01:19:42.12] Josh Thomas: All right, [panting]

[01:19:50.24] Josh Thomas: Man, it's a [laughing]. That was a real push.

[01:19:56.28] J.J. Kelley: Sorry.

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[01:19:57.29] Josh Thomas: So one of the nice things about gaining some elevation is running into snow. Yeah!

[01:20:17.27] J.J. Kelley: This is the food we're going to be eating for the next week, we just did some grocery shopping, and uh, we're getting ready to pack it all away. We, I got it all laid out so we know what we got.

[01:20:27.03] J.J. Kelley: Wa, wa, wa, wa. What's that?

[01:20:29.27] Josh Thomas: This? I didn't show you this. I st-. We went to, this is kind of funny, but uh, went to a mini-mall yesterday, Radio Shack, looking for some, some meteor-, media output-input, JPEG, MPEG stuff, stuff I'm not really, I'm not, I'm not really knowledgeable about, but media, so while J.J. was in Radio Shack looking for media, I snuck into the GNC-

J.J.: What?

[01:20:57.12] Josh Thomas: And got the Mega 100 Colossal.

[01:20:59.03] J.J. Kelley: That's a lot of them.

[01:21:00.15] Josh Thomas: Well, they were on sale. You buy 24, you got, this is less, this costs less

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than a Snicker bar, somehow.

[01:21:08.22] J.J. Kelley: This one has got a little bit of apples and cinnamon in it. It's a nice touch. I like a little extra flavor.

[01:21:14.28] Josh Thomas: So, I knew we were trying to keep our weight on, and uh, I thought it was a good idea. So there's, I think there's 24 of these, are you ready for it?

[01:21:26.29] Josh Thomas: So there's not, there's not 24. There's only 12. Did we get-? I got ripped off. They're two dollars a piece. Well-

[01:21:43.18] J.J. Kelley: How do you feel?

[01:21:44.27] Josh Thomas: Twelve'll get us where, where we need to be. I don't feel great about it, but, there they are.

[01:21:55.00] J.J. Kelley: I'm gonna stir this in, create a nice, creamy broth, and it almost makes a nice gravy.

[01:22:03.15] Josh Thomas: So what's in, is that pound of sausage in there with the hot cereal? With apples and cinnamons.

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[01:22:07.17] J.J. Kelley: Right. The sausage is in here.

[01:22:09.11] Josh Thomas: I didn't agree to that. I didn't know, I didn't know we were doing that.

[01:22:17.22] J.J. Kelley: Just let me work here, my friend, let me work.

[01:22:25.12] Josh Thomas: Mmmm.

[01:22:27.09] J.J. Kelley: The weight gainer was much too expensive, so

[01:22:30.04] Josh Thomas: You get it when you can.

[01:22:34.27] Josh Thomas: If you want to come to Juneau, Alaska, you gotta either fly or take a boat.

We decided to take smaller boats. It's more fun this way.

[01:22:46.22] J.J. Kelley: It is, it-

[01:22:55.26] J.J. Kelley: We've really got to watch out cause there's a little water that goes up to the front. Water, water, all around us. We paddle in it, we drink it, we make coffee from it, it collects in our boats.

[01:23:15.15] Josh Thomas: (unintelligible) Use the legs.

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J.J. Kelley: Never said it would be easy.

[01:23:19.11] Josh Thomas: This is a change of pace, huh?

[01:23:21.08] J.J. Kelley: It's still a workout, just a different kind.

[01:23:29.06] Josh Thomas: A portage is defined by picking your boat up, moving it overland to save yourself a little bit of time.

[01:23:36.01] Voice: Are there tracks like this everywhere, or is this one unique?

[01:23:38.14] J.J. Kelley: This is very unique. I've never seen tracks like this before, but this is one of a kind. We're a lucky crew, even in the rain. And I'm happy just to sit back and enjoy the ride. Yah!

[01:23:55.26] Josh Thomas: We've got three video cameras. One of them is out of commission due to rain. What can you do?

[01:24:02.15] J.J. Kelley: I mean, ideally we wanted that camera so we could shoot stuff that's wet. We were going to do our mud shoot tonight, a little mud wrestling, and if that doesn't work, it ruins the whole thing. We can't mud wrestle.

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[01:24:11.02] J.J. Kelley: Honestly, I didn't think it'd be this rainy in the rain forest.

[01:24:15.07] Josh Thomas: Yeah, it's funny we didn't see that one coming.

[01:24:17.20] J.J. Kelley: It is North America's only rain forest. It's the wettest place on our entire continent, and I didn't think it would be this rainy.

[01:24:24.25] Josh Thomas: Yep, that the reality here. [Beep]

[01:24:28.00] J.J. Kelley: It's raining like [beep] out there right now.

[01:24:31.04] Josh Thomas: It's, how does [beep], it's raining.

[01:24:36.22] J.J. Kelley: It's strange to get this close to bears, uh, especially grizzly bears. I've got a couple kielbasa sausage infused with a little bit of cheddar cheese, and it brought this guy right over. He's loves 'em. I've only got two left right now. I'm about to take one out. I used to use regular bratwurst but it seems the vein of cheddar really draws 'em in, and it, you can see it works, look at how close we are to this guy.

[01:24:59.12] Josh Thomas: Now tell me you're kidding so we can use that.

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[01:25:03.28] J.J. Kelley: It's only a joke. It's only a joke.

[01:25:14.21] Josh Thomas: So when you're in bear country, especially in brown bear country, you've got to hang your food. Cause if you don't, you're gonna lose it and if you lose your food out here in the wilderness, like we're at, hundred miles from the nearest city, you're in trouble. First of all, here's my bear spray, and whenever I'm with my food or even out by myself, going to the bathroom or doing whatever, I take this along. And this we'd use as a last resort, if the bear was charging and had intentions of, of harming you, pop the cap on this and, and uh, give the bear about a half a liter of, essentially what is pepper spray, mace, just in a bigger dosage-, dosage. You wouldn't want to use that on a human.

[01:26:23.04] J.J. Kelley: Oh, heinous back pain. Heinous back pain.

[01:26:43.11] Josh Thomas: Definitely a little nervous right now.

[01:26:45.10] Voice: What's happened so far?

[01:26:48.06] Josh Thomas: Just coming around this point, it's at the end of a long (unintelligible)

[whooshing]

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[01:26:57.24] J.J. Kelley: That tail was as big as the kayak.

[01:27:01.24] Josh Thomas: Like a big sea cow. Whoa. Look at this.

[01:27:10.08] Josh Thomas: I don't know. I was definitely very nervous. They're coming right at us. We're each holding a camera, at one point. I'm holding the umbrella over J.J.'s camera, and you just feel kind of helpless without the paddle in your hand. It's such a huge animal, right next to you.

[01:27:31.15] J.J. Kelley: Are you getting this, Brian?

[01:27:32.29] Brian: Yeah.

[01:27:36.01] [Whistling]

[01:28:04.28] Josh Thomas: We are in Stephens Passage, and this will be the longest crossing of the trip.

[01:28:15.09] J.J. Kelley: I would guess we just did a ten mile crossing, we're right at the end. But everybody's tired, and getting drowsy and si-, tired of just sitting on their butt. But we're almost done.

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[01:28:28.04] Josh Thomas: We've seen the lighthouse for the past three hours, and it just slowly gets bigger.

[01:28:42.13] Josh Thomas: Well, what did you think of that crossing, J.J.?

[01:28:44.07] J.J. Kelley: Whew! It was a long one. And I'm tired and sore and sleepy and excited to be at this lighthouse.

[01:29:00.19] Josh Thomas: We cruised into this lighthouse, how you doing, fellow? And um, not really expecting anything but just a, a place to lay our heads for the night, set up the tent, and move on the next day. We found out it's inhabited and um, and it's a pretty cool place to be. We're going to spend an extra day or two here.

[01:29:25.14] J.J. Kelley: Dude, I can't help you if you don't let go.

[01:29:30.20] Josh Thomas: You little bastard.

[01:29:31.29] J.J. Kelley: Shake that off.

[01:29:36.09] Josh Thomas: Yeah. I'm glad we didn't hit that thing.

[01:29:41.07] [Whoosh]

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[01:29:42.06] Josh Thomas: Holy [beep].

[01:29:47.03] Josh Thomas: Oh my God, he was right next to us. It's his tail fins. Did you get any of that?

[01:29:57.18] Brian: Yeah, I got all of it.

[01:29:59.05] J.J. Kelley: This must look weird to a whale or anybody who's watching.

[01:30:04.18] J.J. Kelley: Most lighthouses now are automated, so there's a machine that tells it when to work, but this one, way out here in the middle of nowhere, Alaska, is the last to be manned in the entire state.

[01:30:15.15] Ed Macintosh: I'm here, I'm the only one out here most of the time. First, we had a thirty year lease on this place to restore it, and turn it into like a bed and breakfast. But uh, over the years I, it's such a remote spot, so hard to get to that uh, we're going to try this year and uh, have some whales research people come out, some college kids and stay for a week at a time, and count the humpback whales that swim around here and...

[01:30:49.03] Ed Macintosh: The closest town is back around that island over there, the town of Kake. It's probably about thirty miles. Petersburg is forty miles south and Juneau is sixty-five

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miles north up the channel there.

[01:31:06.14] J.J. Kelley: Basic primitive living in, on an island, in a passage, far off in Alaska. This is it's own little ecosystem with Ed being a pretty big contributor to it.

[01:31:33.05] Josh Thomas: Well, are you ready to start the next chapter?

[01:31:36.01] J.J. Kelley: Yes, the lighthouse to Petersburg.

[01:31:40.19] Josh Thomas: Baby steps. Looks like we've got some humpbacks to greet us already. Let's go check 'em out.

[01:31:57.01] J.J. Kelley: When you're out here for about a week, you get real stinky, so the only way to buzz the stink is to jump in the cold. And it's about 52 degrees, saltwater. The poor man's bathroom shower is what Josh is demonstrating there.

[01:32:11.15] Brian: So why not wait another 25 hours 'til we get to Petersburg?

[01:32:16.03] J.J. Kelley: Well, we want to hit the ground running, nice and fresh. It takes a few minutes to go in and get a shao-shao, so if you can come in clean, confident and smelling good, then you have an upper hand on the rest of the game.

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[01:32:27.11] Brian: Makes perfect sense.

[01:32:31.12] J.J. Kelley: All right. I'm gonna psych-, I like to psych myself up a little bit before I do this, I just, I'll just do about twenty, twenty of these, and I'll just go back and forth.

[01:32:43.27] Josh Thomas: All right. I'm going to get naked here pretty soon.

[01:32:46.10] J.J. Kelley: I'm just really psyching myself up right now, just whooo! It's all about the psych.

[01:32:54.11] J.J. Kelley: Petersburg harbor master, Petersburg harbor master, this is Kayaker Josh on 16. Over.

[01:33:00.07] Radio: (unintelligible) little weak radio, at any rate, go ahead, how can I help you?

[01:33:06.04] Josh Thomas: Well, we're three kayakers and we're about half an hour outside of uh, the harbor, and we're wondering, um, if we can get a place for the night.

[01:33:14.18] Radio: Roger, captain, just come on up to the office, we're right above where you'll be tying up. Just look for that uh, fire shed. It's got a green roof and kind of a barn red paint job on it.

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[01:33:27.07] Josh Thomas: Here we are in Petersburg, small fishing community, poor fellow, he's not doing so hot. You never know what you find in a boat harbor.

[01:33:55.16] J.J. Kelley: What do you think if we cracked all these eggs, put them in like a Gatorade bottle and then just poured them out when we wanted them. Could we do that?

[01:34:02.10] Josh Thomas: I'm on it.

[01:34:05.07] J.J. Kelley: I'm sure weirder things have happened in this hotel room.

[01:34:09.18] J.J. Kelley: All right, this is Josh's idea. I think it's a little hair brained, but he's sick of pulling over in the kayak, he says it wastes time.

[01:34:18.11] Josh Thomas: I think this is you, right here. Training pants.

[01:34:27.29] Woman: Here's your lutefisk, J.J.

[01:34:29.10] J.J. Kelley: Thank you.

Woman: You're welcome.

[01:34:31.06] J.J. Kelley: Well, we got our lutefisk and we're told they don't sell very much of it, just

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once a year around the Scandinavian Independence Day, but the easy part is, we got it, now the hard part is, we got to eat it.

[01:34:44.13] J.J. Kelley: We're having a cod, or a white fish, and the word lutefisk means that it's been soaked in lye.

[01:34:52.12] Roy Otness: And in the old days they were able to uh, dry it in Norway, northern Norway. Some guys came over with a trunk full of dried cod in their t-, I mean a great big trunk full of it.

[01:35:05.03] Josh Thomas: And the appeal for doing it now, in this Norwegian community, is what? Just traditional?

[01:35:10.13] J.J. Kelley: Tradition. Purely tradition.

[01:35:11.22] Josh Thomas: Because it tastes like ass, right? Is that what they said?

[01:35:16.05] Roy Otness: You almost have to be raised with it to have a little bit at Christmas time, that's the only time we ever eat it, was at Christmas.

[01:35:31.04] J.J. Kelley: Uh-huh, it doesn't have much to it.

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[01:35:36.07] Josh Thomas: It's almost like a fish jell-o.

[01:35:42.12] J.J. Kelley: Doesn't taste like much.

[01:35:43.17] Josh Thomas: It's very fishy.

[01:35:45.18] Josh Thomas: Well, that was not so bad.

[01:35:46.27] J.J. Kelley: Looks like a big bite.

[01:35:48.05] Brian: That was a big bite. It's not bad, it's not good, it's lutefisk.

[01:35:56.06] J.J. Kelley: And you call it lute?

[01:35:57.08] Roy Otness: Yeah, lute, yeah, that's just short for lutefisk. You know, it's a, have you had your lute?

[01:36:23.15] Josh Thomas: It's interesting to see how much we actually consume and how much is, how much is needed, how much the market wants. And it's good fish, you can't blame 'em. I mean, it all starts on these little fishing boats, probably somewhere in southeast Alaska, outside of, outside of Petersburg with their big nets, just a couple of burly dudes that went together and bought a boat, got a quota to catch so many thousand pounds of

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fish, and that's how they make their living, that's how this whole town thrives.

[01:36:55.05] J.J. Kelley: Well, it is a funny thing to leave a town. In the harbor you hear all the hustle and bustle of boats come in and out and moving fish, moving people. You paddle through that, you paddle through the sea lions ripping up fish and birds squawking back and forth and crawling in your kayak in the bitter rain, leave the harbor of a nice warm city and within five or ten minutes, you find yourself clearly immersed in the wild again. Feels good to be back out here. So once we get to Ketchikan, we'll be at mile 500, which is still not halfway done with the trip.

[01:38:05.09] Josh Thomas: Rerun, Whooo, sail to Seattle

[01:38:10.29] J.J. Kelley: (unintelligible)

Josh: Hoist the (unintelligible)

J.J.: We don't have a (unintelligible)

[01:38:37.19] Josh Thomas: August, we have finally reached you. It has been 24 days since our departure. This day in particular has been an unusually long one, and in fact, it feels like two have passed. Dear diary, I have this overwhelming premonition that someone is watching me.

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[01:39:09.03] J.J. Kelley: So, where are we heading, señor?

[01:39:12.02] Josh Thomas: We're going to Ketchikan. It's only about seven miles from here, it's a beautiful, sunny day. We're just really getting started. If I had to guess, I'd say we're probably 450 miles, maybe 475 miles into this trip. That's like a third of the distance.

[01:39:33.09] J.J. Kelley: And I feel like I'm really getting my jive on, we're 28 days into this, and I feel, you know, I feel healthy, I feel mentally into this, and it took 28 days to really like lock into that, you know?

[01:39:47.15] Josh Thomas: If we could make it to Ketchikan, we have a chance, you know, we could make it to Seattle.

[01:39:52.23] Josh Thomas: Coming into a big town is always a little bit sketchy. You got big boats, cruise ships and air traffic that have a hard time seeing a little kayak. You got to have your game face on.

[01:40:14.02] J.J. Kelley: Welcome to Creek Street, Ketchikan, Alaska, where the salmon come to spawn, and we're told, the men used to come to spawn as well. This entire street behind us is a liquid avenue and back when the fishermen were prom-, more prominent in the city, prostitution was as well, and everybody got it on.

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[01:40:38.02] Woman's voice: (unintelligible)

[01:40:39.25] Josh Thomas: So this is a real Alaskan gold nugget. I've never been this close to a gold nugget before. I'm holding it. This is probably how it looks when it's first mined, or found in a stream.

[01:40:50.28] J.J. Kelley: Well, they wash the mud off.

[01:40:52.12] Josh Thomas: Wash the mud off.

[01:40:53.24] J.J. Kelley: Two point five two ounces, \$32,000 worth of gold.

[01:40:59.28] J.J. Kelley: 77.4 grams.

Background voices: Wow

[01:41:01.09] Josh Thomas: Wow.

[01:41:06.17] J.J. Kelley: You bought an ounce of-

[01:41:10.17] Josh Thomas: Good thing it's gold.

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[01:41:13.22] J.J. Kelley: Do you sell any pieces like that?

[01:41:18.10] J.J. Kelley: How cool is this, man?

[01:41:19.07] Josh Thomas: I know, look at this.

[01:41:20.29] J.J. Kelley: This is the most company we've had on the trip so far.

[01:41:31.10] Josh Thomas: We thought we were crazy for jumping in the water and just swimming around for a few minutes. These people are swimming in fifty degree water for eight miles and they can only go at a slack tide because the current is so strong that if they miss it, they'll get drug out in the ocean.

[01:41:43.28] Josh Thomas: That's why it's important that every swimmer has their own personal kayaker to watch over 'em.

[01:41:48.23] Keep breathing, keep grinding, keep grinding, keep grinding.

[01:41:50.23] Ann Battle: It was cold. There was one point where I couldn't feel this hand or that foot, but towards the end I don't think the water was as much of a problem. When I hit a wall at about halfway through, I was like, I just need to finish this race, somehow.

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[01:42:06.29] J.J. Kelley: Good breathing, Ann, good breathing. Second place female overall, Ann.

[01:42:11.12] Background voices: Good job, Ann.

Ann: Thank you.

[01:42:12.12] Josh Thomas: Good job, yeah.

Background voice: Whooo!

[01:42:21.00] J.J. Kelley: Well, dude, it's been ten days in Ketchikan, and we got to know this community better than other on any of our expeditions, but it's time to move on. Canada, here we come.

[01:42:35.02] Josh Thomas: Where are we, dude?

[01:42:37.09] J.J. Kelley: We are under the pier, right next to a massive cruise ship. This thing is huge.

[01:42:41.19] Josh Thomas: Is this legal?

[01:42:42.20] J.J. Kelley: I don't know. Let's get out of here.

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[01:42:44.08] Josh Thomas: All right. Scat. Get the hell out of here, Brian, get out of here.

[01:42:49.16] Josh Thomas: This is where we officially say goodbye to Brian. We are leaving the, the shelter of the small boat harbor. J.J. and I are going to paddle on south. Brian'll catch the ferry on Monday and be back in Seward in less than a week. And we are all filming right now.

[01:43:07.09] J.J. Kelley: Good luck, man. Thanks for coming along, Brian, it was good having you.

[01:43:11.24] Josh Thomas: We miss you. We're going to miss the hell out of you, Brian, really.

[01:43:14.02] Brian: Yeah. I'm gonna miss going. I really am.

[01:43:16.24] J.J. Kelley: Pshu-puh. This load.

[01:43:22.01] J.J. Kelley: About seven hundred miles of kayaking still to go, and some gnarly weather ahead of us, most likely, if it comes into Fall and it's a big ocean and the entire British Columbia coastline. It's gonna be sweet.

[01:43:45.16] Josh Thomas: We're making camp, making dinner. Right now, I'm pumping water, and we're looking at the Moon. I haven't seen the Moon yet, is that weird? [both talking at

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once] What day is it? Day 35 of this trip or something.

[01:43:59.05] J.J. Kelley: Yeah. 35.

[01:44:00.27] Josh Thomas: And this is our first glimpse of the moon.

[01:44:03.03] J.J. Kelley: It's just been too cloudy and wet and rainy. It's funny how you can forget about things like the Moon.

[01:44:12.26] Josh Thomas: And that moon, I mean, it's kind of cool too, that moon is the direction we're paddling tomorrow, and where that light starts to shine on the ocean, maybe fifteen, twenty miles south of here, is the Canadian border. Wow.

[01:44:27.27] J.J. Kelley: It's funky cause this is the same scene we were looking at just twelve hours ago where we could see all the way up to the Moon.

[01:44:35.06] Josh Thomas: I've been working on my fog call. I'm just going to try it right now-

J.J. Kelley: Let's hear it

Josh Thomas: 'Cause I hear a boat out there. Ai-ya-ya-ya-ya-yah!

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[01:44:45.26] J.J. Kelley: Then I thought that's what you do when you go to the bathroom in the morning.

[01:44:48.26] Josh Thomas: Well it's, today it's going to be a fog call.

[01:44:52.00] J.J. Kelley: So Josh is taking a bearing, and I've got the GPS, and we're just going to go for it.

[01:44:59.19] Josh Thomas: One thing the GPS and the charts really don't do for us is show us where beaches are, places to land, because these things are designed for mariners and bigger boats, and they're not landing anywhere. So for us, we kind of have to use our instincts a little bit. Where we think we might find a beach, maybe at the bottom of a drainage, you know, where a river is flowing out from a glacier, or a, or a canyon between one of these mountains, um, sometimes the beach is there when you come around that corner, and the timing's right, it's seven o' clock in the evening and you're ready to make camp, you're ready to eat dinner and go to bed, or sometimes you come around that corner and it's not there, and, and you're not going to find anything for another three or four miles.

[01:46:01.15] Josh Thomas: J.J.!

[01:46:02.09] J.J. Kelley: Josh!

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[01:46:04.10] Josh Thomas: Where are you, buddy?

[01:46:06.07] J.J. Kelley: Josh?

[01:46:07.01] Josh Thomas: I can't see you.

[01:46:08.19] J.J. Kelley: Josh! I'm over here.

[01:46:10.20] Josh Thomas: Oh, there you are.

[01:46:11.09] J.J. Kelley: I'm right here.

[01:46:13.06] Josh Thomas: I don't know if you guys can see this or not, probably a little bit. This is what everybody's calling a red tide. Nasty stuff.

[01:46:24.18] J.J. Kelley: It's like that movie with Sean Connery, Red Tide!

[01:46:28.26] Josh Thomas: Isn't that Re-, The Hunt for Red October?

[01:46:33.03] J.J. Kelley: Red tide!

[01:46:47.00] J.J. Kelley: So, joke for ya. And a question. What kind of seaweed do they use to make

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sushi at the rodeo?

[01:46:57.11] Josh Thomas: What kind?

[01:46:58.12] J.J. Kelley: Bull kelp. Whooo!

[01:46:59.29] Josh Thomas: Oh my God!

[01:47:02.09] J.J. Kelley: Aaaaa!

[01:47:03.08] Josh Thomas: You just took out the bear cat.

[01:47:08.22] J.J. Kelley: It just came to me. That's the kind of stuff that happens out here.

[01:47:11.09] Josh Thomas: What's the joke again?

[01:47:12.12] J.J. Kelley: Bull kelp! Whooo!

[01:47:15.22] Josh Thomas: Good God, that's scary.

[01:47:21.25] Josh Thomas: Can you believe that, man? Seven hundred miles after reaching
Ketchikan yet?

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[01:47:29.01] J.J. Kelley: Any one day isn't extremely crazy in itself, but when you amount that up to three months, it adds up.

[01:47:35.01] Josh Thomas: Yeah, that's what, you know, I've been thinking about that more and more, you know. Pre-planning and putting this together, your whole mind is yeah, we're going to make this film, we're going to do this awesome trip, whatever. But you, you lose the feeling that it is a three month long trip. Until you're out here, even on Day One, it's like, Wow, we've got a long ways to go.

[01:48:17.22] Josh Thomas: So, behind me, Alaska, the United States. In front of us, turn camera, there it is, there's Can-, Canadia! Or Canada, as some people call it now.

[01:48:39.29] Josh Thomas: Let's scope it out, make sure this is Canada. There should be like one of those duty-free stores.

[01:48:46.20] Radio: -waters being forecast at 4 am Tuesday. Clouds straight. Small craft advisory today. Today, southeast wind 30 knots. Sea six feet. Wind. Tonight. Northeast wind twenty knots. Seas four feet. [fades out]

[01:49:06.12] J.J. Kelley: Right now we're hauled out, we could be paddling, but they're forecasting forty to fifty knot winds just outside of where we are, and we're still in a pretty exposed

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area, so-

[01:49:22.11] J.J. Kelley: As you may know, today we had a bad weather day

[01:49:24.23] Josh Thomas: Curse you, Yaaweh!

[01:49:26.19] J.J. Kelley: And we couldn't paddle, and we're on this island, so we have limited water, and we can't go anywhere [yelling outside tent] to get any water, and his solution, he said, Don't worry, I'm gonna get water, so I thought he had some kind of rigging where he was going to make the salt water into fresh water, but I look outside and this is what I see.

[01:49:49.21] Josh Thomas: Raaaaa!

[01:50:09.21] J.J. Kelley: What kind of berries you munching on?

[01:50:11.06] Josh Thomas: I don't know. They taste really good. I don't think they're poisonous. Something like a red raspberry, but, but not. A lot different.

[01:50:21.10] J.J. Kelley: Are there many of them here?

[01:50:22.12] Josh Thomas: Hundreds. Probably thousands.

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[01:50:32.17] Josh Thomas: Canadian customs. Canadian customs. This is Kayaker Josh on channel 16, over.

[01:50:40.21] Josh Thomas: That's been on my mind, I've been having little nightmares about not getting into Canada. About five or six years ago, when I came up to Alaska for the first time, they wouldn't let me in because of a, a DWI that I had when I was in high school. Eventually they let me come through but it was two days worth of paperwork and a couple hundred bucks.

[01:51:00.04] Josh Thomas: Nothing yet.

[01:51:02.17] J.J. Kelley: Maybe they don't care.

[01:51:05.01] Josh Thomas: It's like, Whatever, Kayaker Josh.

[01:51:13.09] J.J. Kelley: Are you freestyle cruising?

[01:51:14.28] Josh Thomas: Maybe. Maybe I am. Whooo!

[01:51:21.13] Josh Thomas: We made it to Prince Rupert. We're going to check in with Customs.

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[01:51:40.25] Josh Thomas: All right. And is that for the both of us?

[01:51:42.22] J.J. Kelley: I had something magic happen.

[01:51:49.20] J.J. Kelley: No tobacco. No. No excessive currency. I got put on hold. I hope I didn't
say a buzz word.

[01:52:10.21] Josh Thomas: Is that gravy?

[01:52:12.09] J.J. Kelley: Mmm-hmmm.

[01:52:13.06] Josh Thomas: Looks good.

[01:52:13.26] J.J. Kelley: It's how they roll. I love it.

[01:52:16.27] J.J. Kelley: All set. Thank you so much. 'Kay, bye. Well, I think that's it. I think we
just cleared customs over the phone.

[01:52:25.06] Josh Thomas: That's it?

[01:52:26.17] J.J. Kelley: Said, Enjoy your time in Canada.

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[01:52:27.27] Josh Thomas: That's a little anti-climatic, huh? What's next?

[01:52:39.00] J.J. Kelley: Did I make it in time? It was a little farther than I thought. What are we seeing?

[01:52:43.11] Josh Thomas: This is what we are going to see.

[01:52:44.06] J.J. Kelley: Right on. Let's do it.

[01:52:46.14] Josh Thomas: All right.

[01:52:51.28] Josh Thomas: I'm really excited about this.

[01:53:20.08] J.J. Kelley: We are leaving Prince Rupert today.

[01:53:23.25] Josh Thomas: Dirty Rupert.

[01:53:25.19] J.J. Kelley: We have to get groceries still for a huge stretch where there aren't going to be supplies for a couple hundred miles, and the only thing I can think about right now is my head and how much it hurts.

[01:53:40.28] J.J. Kelley: They're forecasting 25 knot winds minimum everyday, 100% chance of rain

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everyday for the next seven days indefinitely, so hopefully that doesn't come in to be too big of a concern, but we're going to see some weather.

[01:54:31.26] Josh Thomas: So this is Una River, this is where we're going to spend our second night here, in this small schoolhouse.

[01:54:38.11] J.J. Kelley: There's a storm front moving in tomorrow, and we said, There, there might be a community here, we were reading about it, and we heard rumors that there was. Let's go check it out and see if we can get a place to stay. And apparently it's not used anymore. The teacher left, I'm not even sure if there are any children. We're forty miles away from Prince Rupert, and out there, fully, full-on, out in the wilderness, and there's dial-up Internet.

[01:55:07.21] Josh Thomas: Storm warning in effect, winds southeast, forty to fifty knots, diminishing to south, twenty to thirty this evening. And ten to twenty after midnight. That's pretty good. After midnight, ten to twenty. I think the trend of our trip is going to change a little bit. I think we're going to be doing a lot of paddling, so if you're not seeing the same stuff like you've, like we've been showing you before like communities, you know, playing around a lot, joking around a lot, it's probably because we, because we're trying to make miles, and we're trying to get to Seattle, not because we're in a hurry, um, not that we don't want to be out here, it's just that if we want to get there, we've got to make some progress. We've got some six hundred miles to go.

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[01:55:48.29] J.J. Kelley: But the fellow that, that showed us to the schoolhouse stopped us right away and he, his name's Lutz, he said, Lutz said, you guys are late.

[01:55:59.27] Lutz Budde: Late, yeah, late in year, late in the season. Uh, because uh, this is pretty harsh climate, you know, in the marine climate, especially, and uh, you know, if you have to make that stretch, if you look at the kind of long-term forecast, doesn't look good. Because if you have every other, other day a bad weather day, you know, what you gonna do?

[01:56:24.23] J.J. Kelley: He said, The storms are coming in, and it's getting awfully late for you guys to be out here. You guys are young, you can do this next year. And for Josh and I, that's not something in our equation. I mean, I think both of us would rather winter here in this small community and stay in the schoolhouse and finish it next year than go home and not have completed this project.

[01:56:58.08] Josh Thomas: We said our goodbyes to Lutz this morning, he came out and greeted us as we left Una, and uh, the last thing he said was, Oh, be careful, there's been a recall on some meat. The number is this and the manufacturer is this and if you got any, don't eat it. He's, and, and he gave us the number, and we're like, OK, and we have a lot of processed meats, it turns out. When we were in Prince Rupert, we stocked up, and we got the cheapest meat we could get as well, so we're going to take a look. We've got this

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ham that I've got a feeling might have been the recall, the recall meat.

[01:57:35.05] J.J. Kelley: Have we eaten any of it yet?

[01:57:36.07] Josh Thomas: We've already eaten two packages of it. Said there'd be a number on it, right?

[01:57:39.25] J.J. Kelley: Like ninety-seven.

[01:57:43.16] Josh Thomas: [beep] There it is. 97-B.

[01:57:50.24] J.J. Kelley: Was it 97-B or 97-A?

[01:57:53.02] Josh Thomas: I don't know. You called it, though. It's 97.

[01:57:59.14] J.J. Kelley: What do we do?

[01:58:00.10] Josh Thomas: We don't eat anymore of that. If you go into a store and you buy meat, you expect, you expect that you should be able to eat it, right?

[01:58:09.27] J.J. Kelley: True.

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[01:58:10.23] Josh Thomas: That's true, look at, that's nasty. We should have never bought that. It was two for four dollars, they were, I wonder if they knew it was going to be recalled. Those bastards. Safeway stores. Not safe.

[01:58:24.21] Josh Thomas: He said, Lutz said it killed some people-

J.J.: -six people already

Josh: Six people, but it won't kill us 'cause we're strong and young.

[01:58:34.29] J.J. Kelley: All right. I really don't want to harp on the complaining, you know, the cr-, bad weather and the whole food poisoning killed six people epidemic, but now this seagull looks like he's just waiting for us to die. Shady dude.

[01:58:52.20] Josh Thomas: What does he want?

[01:58:54.14] J.J. Kelley: I don't know, man.

[01:58:58.09] Josh Thomas: Going for the ham.

[01:59:01.06] J.J. Kelley: Straight for the jam bone, we knew it.

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[01:59:03.21] Josh Thomas: Don't do it, little buddy.

[01:59:11.13] J.J. Kelley: All right, pal, we'll leave you be it. I hope you don't get food poisoning. I hope we don't either. I wish us all the same luck.

[01:59:21.25] Josh Thomas: I think for us, it's probably about 600 more miles, and, and then you're watching the seasons change. You're watching the, the geese and the ducks flying by you, they're going like 20 miles an hour, and then, you know, then there's us cruising at one, two, maybe three miles an hour. It's frustrating. I'd say today was the first day I've actually gotten frustrated on the water and a little aggravated. We've got a long way to go, and the days are just getting shorter and it's just gonna get colder, and it's just going to get windier.

[02:00:45.15] J.J. Kelley: It's nine o' clock, 9:20 in the morning, I can tell you that, and it's not raining. There's even a blue patch of sky behind us, looks a little promising. It's been three days and we don't, we don't feel sick, so I don't think we have the food poisoning, so yeah, that's a bonus. We're gonna, we're still alive and kicking, and we're still having a good time.

[02:01:39.23] Josh Thomas: Ah, to be dry. It's funny. You never know where each day'll bring us. A lot can happen in a 24 hour period.

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[02:01:52.13] J.J. Kelley: That's right on, brother.

[02:01:54.15] Josh Thomas: Here's that spirit bear. We're going to go find that thing, tonight. It's a fatty. Look at you, fatty.

[02:02:04.08] Josh Thomas: I think I saw Rambo, First Blood over there. It's been a-, it's been a long time since-

[02:02:09.19] J.J. Kelley: Movie night?

[02:02:10.07] Josh Thomas: Twenty years ago since I've seen that one?

[02:02:13.02] J.J. Kelley: Long time, well, I guess we did see um, Stepbrother in Prince Rupert. Last movie we saw.

[02:02:21.23] Josh Thomas: It's, it's good. I mean, we u-, even though that movie was horrible, we still use it for material.

[02:02:27.26] J.J. Kelley: Yeah. Inspiration is few and far between out here, especially when you only have one other person.

[02:02:51.23] J.J. Kelley: All right, I checked it out, and they're out of business, but as soon as we find

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some ice cream, we're going to introduce you to the Half Gallon Challenge.

[02:03:01.08] Josh Thomas: Can't wait.

[02:03:05.23] Josh Thomas: Yeah.

[02:03:12.10] J.J. Kelley: Oh my God.

[02:03:15.14] Josh Thomas: Starting to drift away. This is the deep part, uh?

[02:03:38.05] Josh Thomas: Whoo!

[02:03:52.13] J.J. Kelley: Another big one!

[02:03:56.07] Josh Thomas: Got some white water!

[02:04:00.10] J.J. Kelley: Hard right.

[02:04:16.21] Josh Thomas: How bizarre is it, that this is the Pacific Ocean? And it's white water river? I could, you know, you can imagine, you taste this water, that's salty. It's saltwater.

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[02:04:33.01] J.J. Kelley: How fast are we going?

[02:04:35.16] Josh Thomas: 8.5 miles an hour according to the GPS.

[02:04:38.17] J.J. Kelley: (unintelligible) Thank you, tide.

[02:04:43.22] Josh Thomas: We pretty much spent the whole afternoon searching for the Spirit Bear, but I'm gonna say we've gone twenty miles today, and we've had a pretty relaxed day on the water. Mostly it's nice to get the miles in, because we know it's getting later in the season and we need to get to Seattle. And it's nice to be out on the water. It's sunny and it's comfortable. It's relaxing.

[02:05:06.26] J.J. Kelley: So, this is an unusual story. We were trying to find a camp site last night. Every beach was really steep, we couldn't find a place to land, and we saw some floating buildings.

[02:05:19.18] Josh Thomas: We had a real friendly reception. Mark ended up offering us a room to stay in, you know, a place to, to take a shower if we wanted and today he even showed us around this, this outfit, what they do, you know, how they harvest salmon.

[02:05:37.16] Mark Champis: When you start finishing this pen, the fish on the next pen will, will know about it, just by the sound of the feed and the boat changing, and they'll actually

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start getting all active and jumping and start ready for their feed.

[02:05:58.15] Josh Thomas: That's the last thing we were expecting, 8:30 at night, cruising into what's supposed to be a pretty remote area. End up sleeping in beds and spend the morning feeding fish, you know, learning about something we've never known anything about before.

[02:06:20.08] J.J. Kelley: Does taste like herring?

[02:06:21.28] Josh Thomas: That's what's so cool, this trip is just, it's the ultimate trip, you know, it's just the right amount of distance, you know 1200 miles, you go through so many different areas, stuff like this that you'd never expect to run into, you know, stuff that you're not going to find in your guide book. Something different, everyday.

[02:06:43.05] J.J. Kelley: Let's go see something different.

[02:06:44.11] Josh Thomas: All right, let's do it.

[02:06:48.10] Josh Thomas: So we found our bear. It's not the White Spirit Bear, but it's a big bear. I'm gonna go check him out.

[02:07:08.29] Josh Thomas: Um, yeah, there are some certain rules to hanging food and, and where

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you're supposed to store it. I don't know what they are, tell you the truth. Tree?

[02:07:29.04] Josh Thomas: Well, that was sweet. Anybody could tell, that was a sweet toss, I didn't, I never even played football in high school either.

[02:07:57.02] Josh Thomas: I think we're set. How about it? Let's call it a night.

[02:08:01.15] J.J. Kelley: Well, this is the worst thing that you want to see, it's right before bedtime, and there's a grizzly bear that's walking back and forth on our beach, this is where we're camping. Hey there! Hey there! He doesn't care.

[02:08:16.21] Josh Thomas: Wow.

[02:08:20.05] J.J. Kelley: Kept throwing something at him and he got a little freaked out.

[02:08:22.27] Josh Thomas: He is big.

[02:08:27.23] J.J. Kelley: Really close.

[02:08:28.15] Josh Thomas: Just yell at him again.

[02:08:29.16] J.J. Kelley: Hey, bear. Get out of here, bear. Get out of here. Get.

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[02:08:36.07] Josh Thomas: This is his house, I guess, he doesn't want us.

[02:08:39.17] J.J. Kelley: Hope you sleep well tonight, my friend.

[02:08:41.20] Josh Thomas: I'm not, I don't know if I can. Wow, he is close.

[02:08:43.08] J.J. Kelley: Hey, bear.

[02:08:45.09] J.J. Kelley: We should mention that, you know, it's fair enough on his part, the tide is going out, so, when the tide goes out there's new seaweed and dead fish that roll out to shore, so that's when you see a lot of animals come to feed, or the tide goes out. He's wandering the shore and he doesn't care about us.

[02:08:59.25] Josh Thomas: Let's just let him do his thing, then. I'll just assume he won't eat us tonight.

[02:09:04.09] J.J. Kelley: Always a good assumption.

[02:09:10.04] Josh Thomas: Check it out. We saw this move on TV. When somebody says something profound, you go 'Psh'

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[02:09:18.15] J.J. Kelley: So this is what we're talking about. We're in this tent, and it's been a long time, and Seattle's coming up. Psh! I mean, you gotta start thinking, Wow, I've been out here forever. I can't even think about getting into the real world. I feel like a grizzly bear. I think like a grizzly bear, this is crazy. [laughing]

[02:09:36.22] Josh Thomas: Morning wake up. Take one. Yeah.

[02:09:46.27] J.J. Kelley: Rained again.

[02:09:56.01] J.J. Kelley: These are deadly, poisonous sea urchins. One single touch will kill a man in two minutes. But just to show you how intense we are, I'm gonna touch one right now.

[02:10:06.13] Josh Thomas: Don't do it.

[02:10:07.01] J.J. Kelley: Watch this, Josh.

[02:10:08.03] Josh Thomas: Don't do it.

[02:10:10.23] [Roar]

[02:10:14.23] J.J. Kelley: Luckily, when I studied Tibet for seven years with the Dali Lama and Brad Pitt, I learned a technique to talk myself down from death. I'm gonna do it right now.

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[Yell]

[02:10:25.18] Josh Thomas: The Death Chant

[02:10:27.02] J.J. Kelley: Uh, uh.

[02:10:29.08] Josh Thomas: Was that it? You just spit out death?

[02:10:31.00] J.J. Kelley: I'm finishing. Dah - that's it. Whooo!

[02:10:38.03] Josh Thomas: Wow. Just like that.

[02:10:39.29] J.J. Kelley: Yeah.

[02:10:41.01] Josh Thomas: Brad Pitt and the Dali Lama.

[02:10:43.06] J.J. Kelley: Yeah, we hung out, we were like this.

[02:11:04.10] J.J. Kelley: I'm gonna be ready for something new when this is all said and done, you know, ready to, to get on a bike again and go for a run again, or have new ideas with different folks again. I mean, I really love hanging out with Josh, but it's a really isolated environment we live with one another out here. It's just the two of us, and-

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[02:11:23.12] Josh Thomas: We left about eh, July 8th, it's probably about September 8th. So, two months. That's a long time.

[02:11:33.02] J.J. Kelley: I remember thinking back when just departing Skagway how awful the winds were. Similar to the gale force we're experiencing today, and I remember saying, Man, if we could make it to Haines, which is only 16 miles away from where we started, if we can make it there, we can make it to Seattle.

[02:11:48.12] Josh Thomas: And God, that feeling is gone where it's like, Oh my God, there's a, there's a chance we're not going to be able to do this trip, this weather is so nasty, and here we are, we're about fifteen, twenty miles away from these protected waters, got to wait out one last storm, hopefully and then I think we're home-free man. That feels real good.

[02:12:19.00] J.J. Kelley: We recently left the beach that Josh and I stayed at for two days, being weather bound, and unfortunately, very ill. We were both afflicted with a sickness I remember my mom affectionately calling 'the burning turkey squirts', when we were a kid. And it's no fun, it's never any fun to be sick, especially out here. We feel all right to push on and we, we need to to get out of this open ocean area while we have a decent enough window.

[02:13:03.07] J.J. Kelley: It is September 16th, mile 900 of the trip, we figure three weeks remaining,

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three hundred miles remaining.

[02:13:15.13] Josh Thomas: We are in Vancouver Islands protected waters. Made it to Port Hardy, we're going to spend a couple of days here just licking our wounds. I'm not feeling so hot today. I woke up at like four in the morning and uh, been having stomach, stomach problems for the past two days. But I woke up at four in the morning this morning in this hostel and uh, just started yakking. I think it might be a parasite, there's a pretty good chance this is Giardia, it's a pretty common one. Um-

[02:13:49.28] Josh Thomas: Went to the, the doctor today, unable to get a prescription um, in Canada it's going to cost me \$700 to even talk to a doctor plus whatever the, the prescription is, so we're going to try our luck a little further down the line, maybe at a bigger town.

[02:14:13.06] J.J. Kelley: Tide's pulling me in.

[02:14:18.17] Josh Thomas: We're in the population now. Things have changed and it happened like that. We came through this channel and boom, there were houses, boom, there were strip malls. And there was a road. I think that's the big thing. There is a road now, and we can see that we're following.

[02:14:37.02] Josh Thomas: Look out, local hobos. There's a new homeless mayor in town.

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[02:15:08.09] J.J. Kelley: The theory is, can the human body contain a half gallon of ice cream in 20 minutes?

[02:15:15.03] Josh Thomas: Twenty?

[02:15:16.16] J.J. Kelley: Twenty minutes.

[02:15:18.21] Josh Thomas: We've got Cara with us, she's a local sea kayaker, and uh, she's never done this before. Neither have we.

[02:15:24.23] Cara: I thought we were doing half an hour?

[02:15:27.07] J.J. Kelley: Twenty minutes.

[02:15:29.04] J.J. Kelley: I feel like I dug myself into a hole. I started off real hot out the gates, flying.

[02:15:33.24] Josh Thomas: You're gonna do it, there's no doubt.

[02:15:36.00] J.J. Kelley: Like I said, I've been tiptoeing that vomit threshold for a little while.

[02:15:43.15] Josh Thomas: I'll give that to you, you did it.

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[02:15:45.00] Cara: You did it.

J.J.: Thank you.

Josh: Awesome.

[02:15:48.00] Cara: He's a winner.

J.J.: I feel all right.

[02:15:56.08] J.J. Kelley: A milestone for us, we're leaving Canada, we've only got two days left and to say goodbye to a nation we've fallen in love with, we wanted do, to do something was strictly Canadian, something you can only find here. Poutine! These are french fries smothered in gravy and cheese, and it's a staple here. I don't know if you're supposed to use a fork, or just dig in. I'm just digging in.

[02:16:18.25] Josh Thomas: She brought us some forks.

[02:16:21.00] J.J. Kelley: She did bring forks. Savage Americans.

[02:16:24.25] Josh Thomas: It's good. I like it.

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[02:16:55.00] J.J. Kelley: Ta, ta! Ta, ta, ta. Da, ta, taa. Da, da, daa. Wa, wa, waa, wa. Well, we're crossing international waters, and you can't carry any kind of produce across, so we've got to liquidate all of our vegetables.

[02:17:16.20] Josh Thomas: That looks really awesome.

[02:17:17.06] J.J. Kelley: Yeah.

[02:17:19.08] Josh Thomas: I don't know if that's going to work, dude. You're asking for it.

[02:17:22.15] J.J. Kelley: Mm-uh-mm. It's really good.

[02:17:27.11] Josh Thomas: Really?

[02:17:28.10] J.J. Kelley: Uh-huh

[02:17:29.00] Josh Thomas: I, oh, that's awesome. All right. I'm in. I'll make one.

[02:17:37.12] J.J. Kelley: Ahoy! Josh just stepped foot on American soil. I am so proud of us right now.

[02:17:43.01] Josh Thomas: Yeah, we did it. What are you eating?

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[02:17:45.07] J.J. Kelley: I've got a grapefruit. No produce in the United States. I haven't set foot yet. But I'm getting rid of it. Whooo!

[02:18:00.02] Josh Thomas: So, we've got about sixty miles to Seattle, and things picked up real fast, looks like we're going to have at least one more weather day before we call this trip done. But good God, this is the worst we've seen it. This is bad. It's supposed to pick up to 50 knots tonight, you know, eight foot swells. I can see from here it's not going to happen. But, it's not the end of the world, uh, sixty miles from Seattle, that's a victory. I could do this for, oh God, I hope it stops at some, some point.

[02:18:49.03] Josh Thomas: So when you paddle into a town, you never know what you're going to find. This is a Kinetics festival in port towns in Washington. And all these vehicles are man-powered, they float, and they move across land, um, so this is pretty interesting. This is al-, and I guess it's worth mentioning, this is also the home to our sea kayaks. This is where Pygmy Kayaks calls their base.

[02:19:34.02] J.J. Kelley: We can see the Space Needle, we can see the sky line, we're basically there. It's just the approach, it's becoming a reality. We're going to make it. It's just right there. I will, well, right now at this very mindset, I can't say that I'm gonna miss sitting in that kayak all day. That'll change in a week. I know it.

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[02:19:56.17] Josh Thomas: J.J. just off the phone, a couple of minutes ago with a buyer, someone who's gonna buy our, our two kayaks. So pretty much right when we're done paddling, we're going to load our kayaks up in someone's truck and they're gonna drive them away and we'll never see them again.

[02:20:15.05] J.J. Kelley: Today is October 11th, day 95 of our paddle. And it's the last day. This is it.

[02:20:33.25] Josh Thomas: This is such a huge landscape, and covering such an enormous distance at three miles an hour, or fifteen miles a day. You have a lot of time to reflect, think about where you're going and where you've been, and what you want your future to look like.

[02:20:55.00] Josh Thomas: How you feel, J.J.?

[02:20:56.22] J.J. Kelley: Whooo! Yeah! Whoo-who-who!

[02:21:01.08] Josh Thomas: I think that's been the biggest thing for me is just having a lot of time to, to think about things like that.

[02:21:11.00] J.J. Kelley: What an awesome day to finish our trip. Thirteen hundred miles, spring, summer and fall. Greatest adventure of my life.

[02:21:38.00] [Background cheering and clapping]

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[02:21:48.21] People on shore: Looking good. [laughing] Looking good. [laughing]

[02:21:55.02] Josh Thomas: Thank you guys, so much. This is great.

[02:21:57.10] Man on beach: Isn't this great? Isn't this great? Hey, man, you're looking good.

[02:22:05.22] J.J. Kelley: Well, fellow.

[02:22:07.16] Josh Thomas: We need to finish at big cities from now on.

[02:22:09.16] J.J. Kelley: Well done, dude. Awesome.

[02:22:13.17] Josh Thomas: How about a high five too?

J.J.: High five.

[02:22:16.00] Background voices: Awesome. Great. Wow.

[02:22:51.00] Josh Thomas: I'm gonna miss the amount of time during the day that I could sit and reflect on anything. This pilgrimage has given me so much time to just go in my head and under-, continue my understanding of who I am and, and what I see as my role on

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this world. .

[02:23:14.19] J.J. Kelley: Oh yeah. That's pretty extreme.

[02:23:22.11] J.J. Kelley: Kayaking the inside passage has been the trip of a lifetime, a journey into wilderness, culture and the spirit of adventure. We'll see you next time.

[02:23:37.06] Josh Thomas: Until next time, friend.

[02:23:45.08] Josh Thomas: And Adventure Medical Kits, Hand Sanitizer Take Two.

[02:23:51.09] J.J. Kelley: When I poop in the woods, I use Adventure Medical Kits Hand Sanitizer Plus Lotion. Clean and soft. Don't you deserve the best?

[02:24:08.00] Josh Thomas: [beep] Wilderness means solitude. Solitude goes best with good coffee. That's why I drink (unintelligible).

[02:24:20.09] J.J. Kelley: [beep] A lot of people don't take safety into account as serious as they should, but when your eyesight's involved, you only have two, and you only have one life. Make 'em last. Safety glasses.

[02:24:33.01] J.J. Kelley: [beep] [wind in microphone] I'm here to tell you about the Garmen Colorado

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400C with built-in Mayonnaise locator. Just punch up the mayonnaise icon, it shows you a list of your nearest mayonnaise retailers. It gets you from the wilderness to the store and to your aisle.

[02:25:13.15] J.J. Kelley: You're on this flight too?

Josh Thomas: Yeah.

J.J. Kelley: Weird.

[02:25:26.20] End