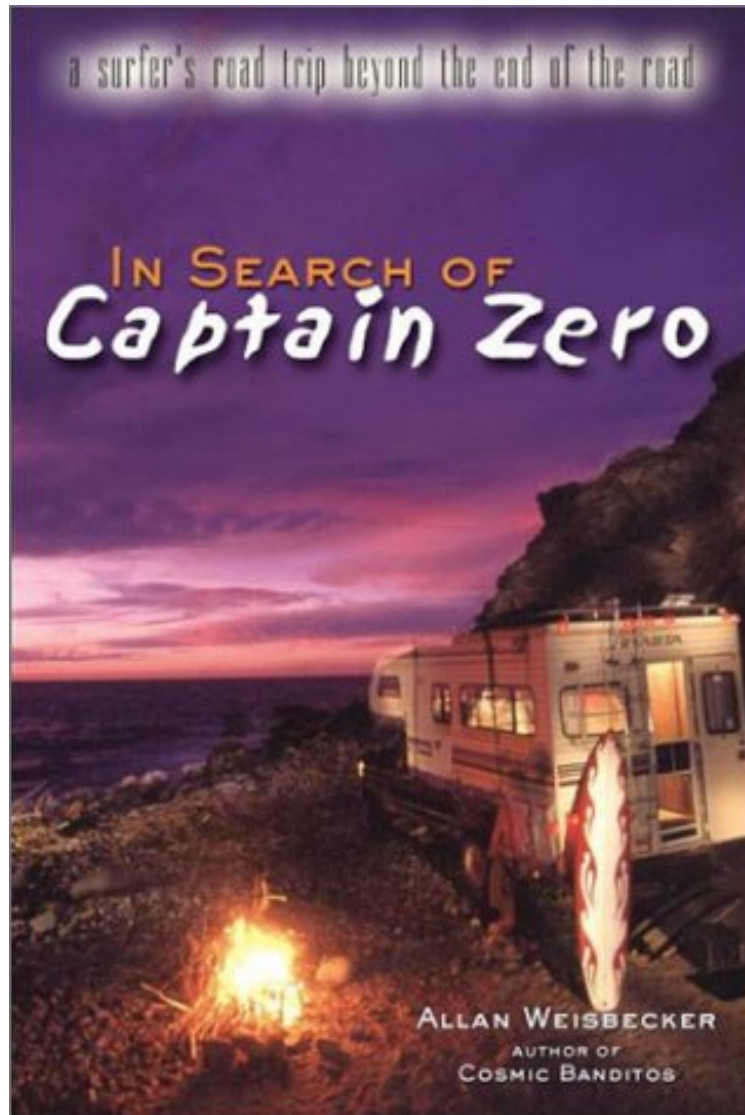


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## IN SEARCH OF CAPTAIN ZERO: A Surfer's Road Trip Beyond the End of the Road

*Allan Weisbecker*

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**Allan Weisbecker : IN SEARCH OF CAPTAIN ZERO: A Surfer's Road Trip Beyond the End of the Road**  
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised IN SEARCH OF  
CAPTAIN ZERO: A Surfer's Road Trip Beyond the End of the Road:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Solid and fun read!By dbinesWhat 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! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Heart of Darkness meets Barbarian Days By Michael THeart 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. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Chris Ise great fun story of adventure!

A chronicle of surfer and photojournalist Weisbecker's two-year journey south from the Mexican border to solve the mystery of a friend's disappearance. 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 lifelong surfing companion, Christopher, who had vanished into the wilds of Central America. Weisbecker traveled south from Mexico through seven countries before discovering his friend in a primeval rain forest, living a shockingly corrupt antithesis of their mutual dream of an Endless Summer perfect-wave paradise. Intimately describing the people he befriended, the bandits he evaded, the waves he caught and lost en route to finding Christopher, *In Search of Captain Zero* is the story of Weisbecker's quest. This rollicking memoir of friendship and adventure is one part Road Fever and one part Heart of Darkness: a nonstop tale of territorial local surf-gang wars and all-gear-and-no-skill European dilettantes, of daring sea rescues, twentieth-century piracy, and a jungle road trip to the place that lies beyond the end of the road.

.com 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 From *Publishers Weekly* 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. From *Library Journal* The disappearance of a friend persuaded screenwriter, novelist, and surfer Weisbecker (*Cosmic Banditos*) to sell his Long Island home and travel through Mexico and Central America. The trip had the dual purpose of surfing waves and searching for his missing friend (nicknamed "Captain Zero"). The product of this two-year journey, this volume describes Weisbecker's adventures with a lively variety of people he met along the way. Weisbecker's is not the usual traveler's account of Latin America, focusing as it does on personal issues of life and commitment. This volume will be of interest to libraries with travel collections but of little value to Latin American collections, primarily because of limited descriptions of the actual countries visited. Mark L. Grover, Brigham Young Univ., Provo, UT Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.