

Arctic Dreams: Imagination and Desire in a Northern Landscape

Barry Lopez

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Barry Lopez : Arctic Dreams: Imagination and Desire in a Northern Landscape before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Arctic Dreams: Imagination and Desire in a Northern Landscape:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Delightful and Meditative Journey through the Arctic NorthBy Wesley BobBarry Lopez has put together a fascinating and pleasurable journey of the arctic. If youve ever been drawn to stories of arctic exploration or what it means to live and survive in the arctic then this is the book for you. Lopez has cobbled together a combination of stories of arctic exploration from long ago with in depth studies of certain species that survive and thrive in the arctic to give a deeply moving and interesting sense of the entire region. Lopez is a fluid and engaging writer and he masterful paints appealing pictures that move you through a region of our planet that is underappreciated and sometimes misunderstood by most. If any of what Ive mentioned sounds even remotely interesting then please do not pass up this wonderful book.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The BestBy Kindle CustomerPeople sometimes ask me "what is your favorite book?" Or " what is the best book you have ever read?". Since first reading this book in 1999 to the present (2015), having just finished reading "Arctic Dreams" for the 3rd time, I don't even hesitate to answer. Arctic Dreams is about the North, its people, its history, its biology, its geology, its exploitation, waters, animals, plants, ice, islands, the "north pole", and everything else "north" you might think of. It sucks you in. In the end, as you step back to gain some perspective, it is about you, and me, and life, and

life on earth. Another reviewer noted Lopez brings the mind of a scientist together with the pen of a poet. I concur. And I feel privileged once again to have experienced this wonderful book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic book! By Amber Beautifully written! Full of vivid imagery, stories and the amazing history of the land, the animals, the native people and the first arctic explorers. Fantastic read!

Barry Lopez's National Book Award-winning classic study of the Far North is widely considered his masterpiece. Lopez offers a thorough examination of this obscure world--its terrain, its wildlife, its history of Eskimo natives and intrepid explorers who have arrived on their icy shores. But what turns this marvelous work of natural history into a breathtaking study of profound originality is his unique meditation on how the landscape can shape our imagination, desires, and dreams. Its prose as hauntingly pure as the land it describes, *Arctic Dreams* is nothing less than an indelible classic of modern literature.

.com Based on 15 extended trips to the Canadian far north over a five-year period, *Arctic Dreams* celebrates the mysteries of what documentarians fondly call "last frontiers." Such places are everywhere in danger of destruction in the interest of ever-elusive economic progress, but Lopez writes no jeremiads. Instead, he aims to foster a kind of learned understanding of wild places, in this case the vast, scarcely knowable northern landscape. Writing of the natural history of the Arctic and its inhabitants--narwhals, polar bears, beluga whales, musk oxen, and caribou among them--Lopez draws powerful lessons from the land and imparts them assuredly and gracefully. *Arctic Dreams* deservedly won a National Book Award in 1986 when it was first published. From Publishers Weekly This is one of the finest books ever written about the Far North, warmly appreciative and understanding of the natural forces that shape life in an austere landscape. The prize-winning author (*Of Wolves and Men*) spent four years in Arctic regions: traveling between Davis Strait in the east and Bering Strait in the west, hunting with Eskimos and accompanying archeologists, biologists and geologists in the field. Lopez became enthralled by the power of the Arctic, a power he observes derives from "the tension between its beauty and its capacity to take life." This is a story of light, darkness and ice; of animal migrations and Eskimos; of the specter of development and the cultural perception of a region. Examining the literature of 19th century exploration, Lopez finds a disassociation from the actual landscape; explorers have tended to see the Arctic as an adversary. Peary and Stefansson left as a troubling legacy the attitude that the landscape could be labeled, then manipulated. Today, he contends, an imaginative, emotional approach to the Arctic is as important as a rational, scientific one. Lopez has written a wonderful, compelling defense of the Arctic wilderness. Illustrations. BOMC main selection. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal The themes of this book are as vast as the landscape it encompasses. Having lived in the Arctic for long periods of time, Lopez authoritatively conveys an enormous breadth and variety of knowledge, including Arctic exploration, geography, weather, animal migration, and behavior. His portraits of animals--muskox, polar bear, narwhale, and others--reflect a sensitive melding of facts and mystery. The work is suffused with philosophical and lyrical strains. Through the centuries the Arctic landscape has woven a "legacy of desire" in many a mind and heart, shaping imagination and knowledge. For Lopez, how the Arctic is comprehended will determine its fate. Whether its land, peoples, and animals are honored or vitiated will depend upon the working out of this metaphorical analogy between mind and landscape. Highly recommended for most collections. Carol J. Lichtenberg, Washington State Univ. Lib., Pullman Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc.