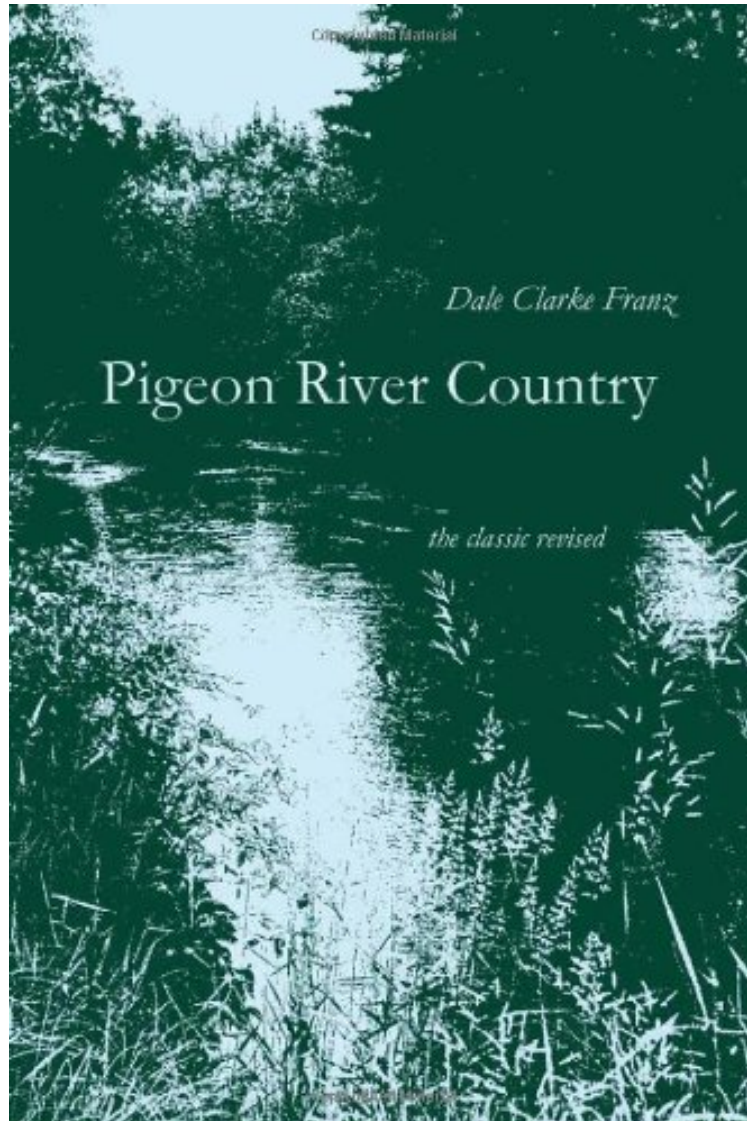


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Pigeon River Country: A Michigan Forest

Dale Clarke Franz

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Dale Clarke Franz : Pigeon River Country: A Michigan Forest before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pigeon River Country: A Michigan Forest:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. 5 stars is not enough. By Customer This was an excellent book on the Pigeon River Country in the northern lower peninsula of Michigan. If you are looking for a history of this area from the logging days through 1960's, this is highly recommended. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Will W. Great read on one of my favorite areas of MI 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Travel Guide, Trail Guide, and History of Environmental law By Michael Heath This book covers a lot of topics. It's a history

of the Pigeon River Country, located about 35 miles south of the top of the "mitt" of Michigan, country that has remained wild after logging in this area was completed in the early part of the last century. More recently drilling for oil in the The Pigeon also caused some of the most notorious environmental battles that ever took place between a state, the oil industry, and environmentalists. Three different court cases made it to the Michigan Supreme Court and those rulings had a large impact on environmental law related to drilling in wild natural areas. The book is also a trail guide, providing tables of fauna and flora that exist here. The Pigeon is the only woods east of the Mississippi that contains wild elk, which are pretty easy to track if you go in with a local or get some advice from the State's Dept. of Natural Resources officers who are stationed in the forest. The Pigeon also contains three world-class trout fishing rivers, two of which are also navigable by more experienced canoeists. There is a major hiking / mtn. biking trail that runs through it as well, providing day and overnight wilderness experiences. I've traveled all over the world, lived in CA twice and FL once, but I knew the Pigeon would draw me home to commune with the elk, coyotes, bears, the white pine and cedars, the Beech and Maple trees, and the bald eagle. The Pigeon is still a fairly wild place with many contiguous sections with neither roads or trails, allowing for a North Woods experience guaranteed to be people-free. Franz' passion for the Pigeon rings through truly. Sometimes the book gets a little long-winded about the beauty of rain drops on a leaf, but if you read this on the trail, you'd never consider entering this tract of land without this wonderful guide as your friend to a better understanding the Pigeon River Country.

The long awaited new edition of a classic offers memories, myths, and meanings of the largest contiguous piece of wild land in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. This updated edition explores more deeply why and how the outdoors moves and compels us. It's a book about mice who sing, elk who wear collars, deer who kiss, and birds who could dictate their compositions to Mozart. It's about the human species interacting in generous and sometimes misguided ways with the rest of life. It's about men trying to ripen pinecones into pineapples and women taking better aim with a revolver than expected. It's about poetry from Mary Oliver, Lao Tzu, and Theodore Roethke and seeing hawks dive in a night sky or feeling oil geologists shake the earth below. It's about finding fish dead in the river by the thousands and crouching behind a stump to watch beaver build a dwelling. While this book considers life beyond the boundaries of Pigeon River Country, it is steeped in the specifics of a place that lives mostly on its own, instead of human, terms. The Pigeon River Country is a remote northern forest, ecologically distinct from most of the United States. Laced with waterways, it has a storied past. Dale Clarke Franz has collected personal accounts from various people intrigued with the Pigeon River Country including loggers, conservationists, mill workers, campers, even the young Ernest Hemingway, who said he loved the forest "better than anything in the world." There are comprehensive discussions of the area's flora and fauna, guides to trails and camping sites, and photos showcasing the changing face of this hidden national treasure.

About the Author Dale Clarke Franz lived in northern Michigan for 22 years. He has been a newspaper editor, bookstore manager, U.S. Navy officer, college instructor, and portrait photographer. He administered the Otsego County Planning and Zoning Department, which encompassed more than 500 square miles. More recently, he was a writer for the Ann Arbor Observer and has led Lifelong Learning discussions of philosopher William James. Visit his Web site at dalefranz.org.