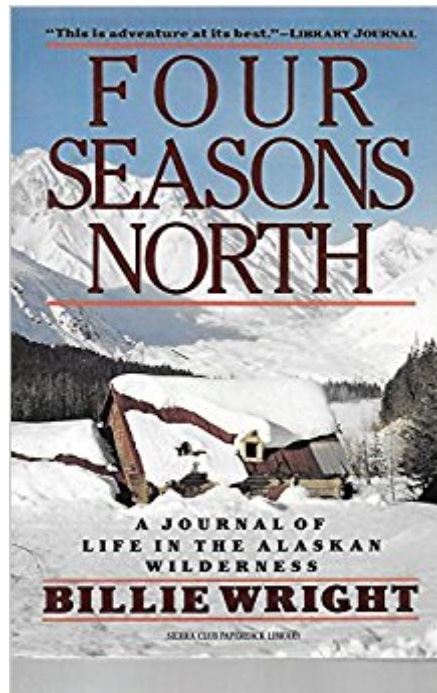




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Four Seasons North



Synopsis

From back cover: "A remarkable woman's sensitive and captivating journal of the first year she and her husband spent in the remote Brooks Range country of arctic Alaska, living in a 12 by 12 foot cabin they built themselves, near a mountain lake. It's fascinating and heartening reading, filled with the wonder of the wilderness and its animals, details of survival in extremes of climate, and the search for meaning in the isolation, self reliance and the traditional Eskimo way of life." Alaska Magazine

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Wright and her husband choose to live in the manner of the Nunamiut Eskimos, inhabiting an isolated cabin they built near the Arctic Circle; this account describes one year of their survival in the wilderness. "Enthralling," PW said, noting "the Wrights's plea for the preservation of the little wilderness we have left is implicit in the record." Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I read this book the first time in 1996 when it was given to me by a friend. The lives of these two people have lived on within me since the first time I read it. What an amazing journey. I loaned my copy to a friend and never got it back, and have been dying to re-read it. So I just bought another copy. I'm enjoying it even more the second time around. This book covers a full year of determination and hardship in an unfriendly region in Alaska. The couple spent the entire year in a small basic cabin in the Brooks Range hunting and trapping their own food, finding ways to stay warm, and using ingenuity to overcome hardship and unexpected problems. The first time I read it I

immediately wanted to go to the Brooks Range and re-live their experience. Now that I'm reading it again, almost 20 years later, I'm older and wiser and realize I would make it about 2 months. I can't recommend this book enough. I wish there were a Kindle version.

I have just started reading this book as I gave it to my husband as a Christmas gift. It is amazing to me. It is a wonderful book to read. Slowly. Few people could ever live this life well..much less to choose to do so. I will send this book to my daughter who lives in the NorthWest knowing we follow dreams of the great adventurers. We are lucky to have this story to read while inside our warm houses.

I am a voracious reader and love to immerse myself in stories like this...I tend to live the life along with them. Alas, in reality I will never live this one...except through Billie and Sam Wright. It's not necessarily a riveting story that keeps you on the edge of your seat or makes you turn the next page even though you have something else to do. It is more a spiritual journey that you think about later...for me, while I am biking or running or walking through the woods. I struggled with the loss of life in the wilderness...of the animals, and the wilderness itself. I know it is necessary to survive and the author and her husband only did what was needed to survive...but, it left me sad. Worse, for me, was the loss of the wilderness as progress marched into the territory...only just beginning almost 40 years ago. This book was written in 1973...one can only imagine what has become of Koviashuvik and the Koyukuk region of the Brooks range since that time. Perhaps, like America since the arrival of the Europeans in the 1400's, and the "taming" of the old West, and the Buffalo, and the control of American Indians...it is destined to be something different. For now, we have this wonderful account from Billie (and Sam)...to remember what it was.

I just finished this book today. I've been reading it for awhile now. It wasn't something I could skim or hasten through as the writing invited me into a slower, easier pace. I enjoyed this book as it reflects the author's experience in Alaska under some of the most basic of conditions and she writes with a spirit that shows itself being molded and formed by those conditions. She can be contemplative and poetic, candid and thoughtful. One example of her reflections is near the end of the book: "Sam leaves off his wood gathering to join me for lunch. We stretch out next to the cranberry patch on thick moss where the sun strikes fullest and warmest and eat our lunch of bear tongue and sourdough bread. It is a fine thing to be able to recognize contentment when one holds it, however briefly, in the hand of ones' life. To be able to recognize the look and feel and smell of

paradise when one arrives there, to pause, savoring place and moment, is surely the answer at the heart of all mysteries."She makes the distinction in the postscript which I appreciate between "place" and our relationship to "place". She writes, "This journal is less about a place than a way of looking at life in any place." In the whole of it I agree with that and so her writing though in a physical place most distinctly not like mine is still filled with attitudes and "moments present in quiet joy and happiness" that I too can and have been present to. She prompted me to continue to explore my place from that place.

I just finished Four Seasons North by Billie Wright and absolutely loved it. I do not usually reread books but as soon as I finished Four Seasons North, I wanted to experience Billie and Sam's adventure all over again!!!!

Billie really has a nice writing style. Although I struggled about midway through, once I committed, I was completely taken in by this account. Makes me wish I was living up there in those basic conditions with them. I recommend this book for anyone who wishes to experience something beautiful.

I lived in Alaska and this book is one of the books I read when I get home-sick. It is an excellent book. I'd give this book 6 stars if I could !!!

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