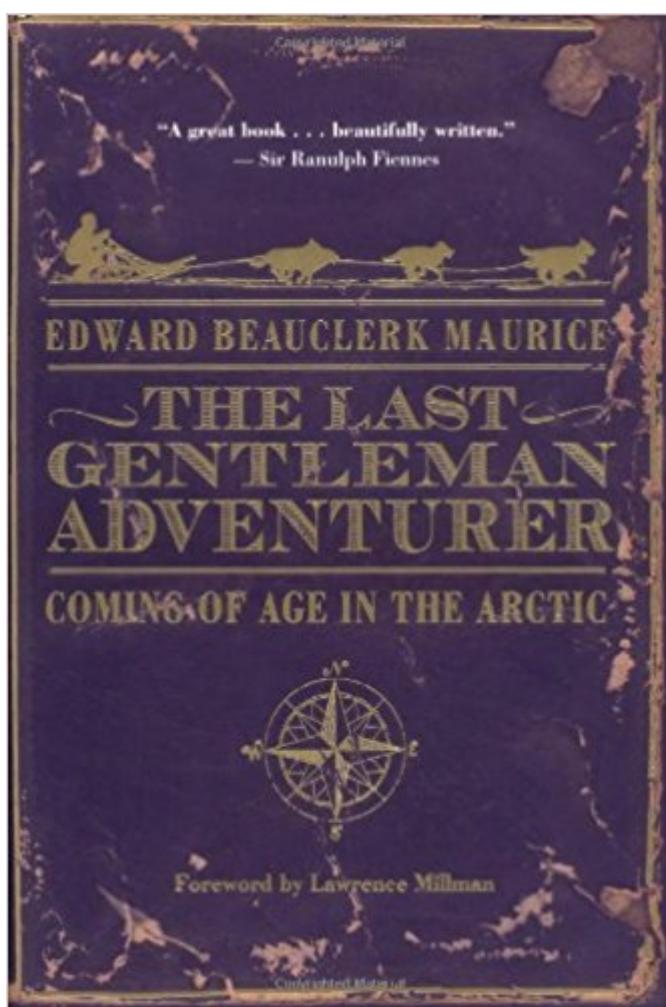


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The Last Gentleman Adventurer: Coming Of Age In The Arctic



Synopsis

"This is a great book about life at remote bases in Canada's far north as seen by a young English boy who went there by himself to see the world and got more than he could have bargained for. Beautifully written." --Sir Ranulph Fiennes"As spare, gleaming, and exhilarating as the Arctic wastes and the gentle, stoic Eskimos who had mastery of this realm . . . The book evokes the frozen seas, whale hunts, snow plains and storms that intimidated those rash enough to brave this world, and the traditions, myths, and hunting skills that contoured a bygone way of life . . . His translucent prose is a sparkling and moving record." -- Times (London)At sixteen, Edward Beauclerk Maurice impulsively signed up with the Hudson's Bay Company -- the Company of Gentleman Adventurers -- and was sent to an isolated trading post in the Canadian Arctic, where there was no telephone or radio and only one ship arrived each year. But the Inuit people who traded there taught him how to track polar bears, build igloos, and survive expeditions in ferocious winter storms. He learned their language and became so immersed in their culture and way of life that children thought he was Inuit himself. When an epidemic struck, Maurice treated the sick using a simple first aid kit, and after a number of the hunters died, he had to start hunting himself, often with women, who soon began to compete for his affections. The young man who in England had never been alone with a woman other than his mother and sisters had come of age in the Arctic.In The Last Gentleman Adventurer Edward Beauclerk Maurice transports the reader to a time and a way of life now lost forever.After serving in the New Zealand navy during World War II, Edward Beauclerk Maurice became a bookseller in an English village and rarely traveled again. He died in 2003 as this, his only book, was being readied for publication. "If you like reality, The Last Gentleman Adventurer will be your cup of tea: a delicious quaff of it. Savor it!" -- Edward Hoagland" Maurice's memoir supplies a fascinating elegy to a vanishing world." -- Telegraph"One of those rare writers who will be remembered for turning out one great memoir/travel book . . . He relates these events in a beautiful prose that is quaintly elegant in tone but never archly so . . . Not only a gentleman but a wonderful writer who limited his output to one book, and perhaps that is why it reads so beautifully." -- Sunday Tribune (Dublin)"Maybe he was exceptional, but the charm of his book lies in its modesty; he makes no claims for himself. His concern was to make a record of some amazing adventures and a vanishing way of life; these are woven into an eye-opening narrative that is suffused with kindness and an attitude to growing up more restrained but more humane than that prevailing today. A gentleman adventurer indeed." -- Times Educational Supplement"A deceptively simple account of how he grew to manhood, shaped on one hand by the brutal elements of the Arctic, on the other by the compassionate communities of Inuit who understood them . . . This is a beautifully unadorned,

homespun tale with a lack of self-consciousness rare in travel literature . . . I was charmed." --

Benedict Allen, Independent on Sunday

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Maurice was a 16-year-old boy from a struggling British family when a missionary from the Canadian Arctic paid a visit to his boarding school in 1930. Impressed by an accompanying film about life in the frozen territories, Maurice immediately sought employment as an apprentice with the Hudson's Bay Company and was sent to a remote trading post, where news from the outside world was often limited to a short weekly radio broadcast. He was so young, the local Inuit tribe nicknamed him "The Boy," but, as revealed over the course of this charming memoir, he was gradually able to win their trust and admiration. Eventually placed in charge of his own post, Maurice—having already learned the Inuit language—became increasingly involved in the daily lives of the local tribe members. His accounts of their dramatic romantic entanglements are understatedly amusing, as is the dry observation that he himself has been selected by one of the women as a suitable mate. Maurice, who died in 2003, recounts his youthful adventures in a graceful style reminiscent of the great 20th-century explorers. Though his tale is somewhat more subdued than their exploits, it proves just as engrossing. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"Enthralling." The New York Times "Maurice evokes his Arctic in vivid detail." Boston Globe "An unrivaled portrait of Unuit life." -- National Geographic Adventurer "Effortlessly entertaining." The

Washington Post "A fascinating often funny chronicle of his early years among the Inuit."

Entertainment Weekly

A compelling narrative about the experience of a very young man from the U.K. going to work for the Hudsons Bay Company in the Eastern Arctic during the Great Depression. Life was tough and harrowing, and yet rewarding in terms of unique experiences and warm relationships. It brought back some memories for me regarding my experiences in the Eastern, Western and High Arctic during the Seventies and early Eighties....

Excellent book! Made me feel like I was there!

Wonderful account of the author's experience in the Arctic and his thoughtful and respectful observations of the native culture. I highly recommend this book!

This is beautifully written in the matter-of-fact tone of a good friend telling you his story. The author has a wonderful, warm, curious, and self-deprecating attitude that brings the people and place to life. The lifestyle and culture at the time of his tenure in the Arctic as a very young man was still very close to pure subsistence living and I found it fascinating.

Have you ever wanted to be an adventurer? But, did not cherish 'getting your feet wet' on a milder note, or be subjected to something a bit more dangerous to ponder? The last gentleman adventurer Edward Beauclerk Maurice has, in my opinion, given the reader of this extraordinary book the unique experience of living the exhilarating beauty of the Arctic Realm. His captivating memoir puts us there! Why did he write only one book? Dag Stomberg St. Andrews, Scotland

A fascinating, beautifully written and beautifully produced book, for those who enjoy reading of life long before the internet. By a man who at sixteen went out to work for the Hudson Bay Company among the Inuit in Northern Canada.

Excellent

Excellent biographical history snapshot of Edward Maurice's life with the eastern Canada Inuit people -- a view of life at two Hudson's Bay Company posts by a sensitive and talented (learned to

speak their language fluently) young Englishman who was not afraid to live on the edge of the Arctic. One of the best literary investments I've made in the past quarter century!

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