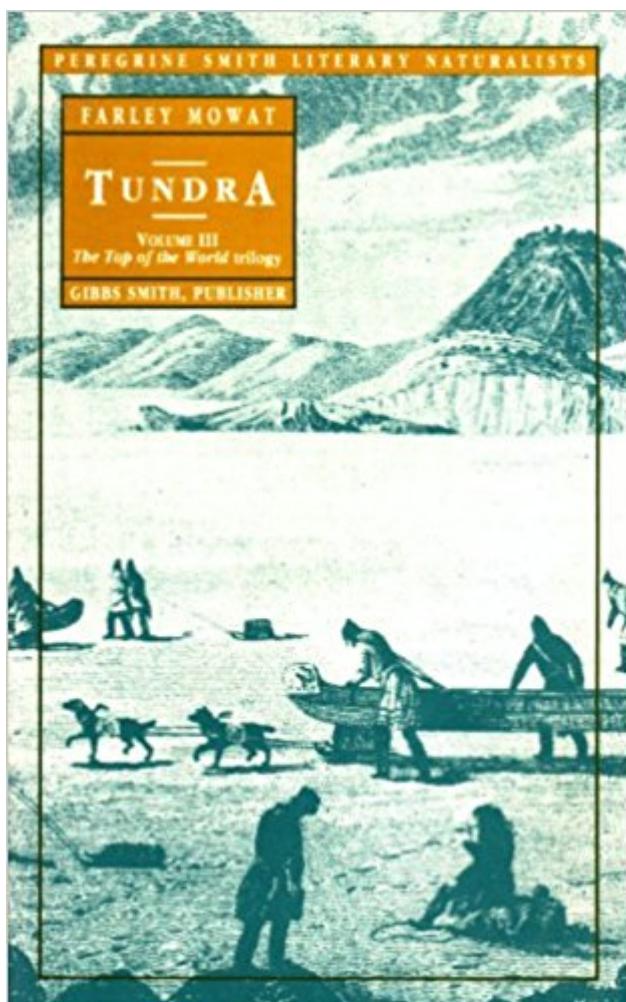


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Tundra: Selections From The Great Accounts Of Arctic Land Voyages (Top Of The World Trilogy, Vol 3)



Synopsis

Book by

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Mowat's (Never Cry Wolf) third volume in his Top of the World trilogy on arctic exploration presents 10 selections from journals of extraordinary men who scoured the Canadian tundra. Neatly editing for a popular audience, Mowat amplifies the texts with minimal intrusion. In the earliest account here (1769-1772), Samuel Hearne describes an almost 5000-mile trek, and trains his eye on the Indians who accompany him--their cookery and customs, including a self-preservation tactic where a sick squaw is left behind to fend for herself, and their bloody ambush of the slumbering Eskimo foe. Later that century, Alexander Mackenzie fails to find a route to the Pacific Ocean but discovers the major river now bearing his name. During WW I, Mounties search the tundra, investigating the disappearance of two Belgian missionaries. In the 1920s, Edgar Christian, fresh from English public school, intends to spend a winter on the plains with his eccentric cousin, trapper John Hornby. Christian's journal relates desolation, cold and an excruciatingly slow death by starvation that claims the entire party. Illustrated. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Farley Mowat was born in Belleville, Ontario, in 1921, and grew up in Belleville, Trenton, Windsor, Saskatoon, Toronto, and Richmond Hill. He served in World War II from 1940 until 1945, entering the army as a private and emerging with the rank of captain. He began writing for his living in 1949

after spending two years in the Arctic. Since 1949 he has lived in or visited almost every part of Canada and many other lands, including the distant regions of Siberia. He remains an inveterate traveller with a passion for remote places and peoples. He has twenty-five books to his name, which have been published in translations in over twenty languages in more than sixty countries. They include such internationally known works as People of the Deer, The Dog Who Wouldn't Be, Never Cry Wolf, Westviking, The Boat Who Wouldn't Float, Sibir, A Whale for the Killing, The Snow Walker, And No Birds Sang, and Virunga: The Passion of Dian Fossey. His short stories and articles have appeared in The Saturday Evening Post, Maclean's, Atlantic Monthly and other magazines. From the Hardcover edition. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

ADVENTURE VERY GOOD HISTORY THANK YOU AWC.

Great.

This is farley at his best

Outstanding read about trips into the unknown which was the beginnig of the end for the people of the deer,

This is the third and last volume of Farley Mowat's TOP OF THE WORLD TRILOGY dealing with exploration in the extreme north. Like the others, it is primarily a reproduction of the source narratives with Mowat's own comments, editing and observations thrown in. The first two books made for interesting and engrossing reading. This one is interesting but the writing style is way too dry to be called engrossing. As the title suggests, this volume is dedicated to the exploration of the North American tundra. There are tails of depravation and heroism but, for me, they do not compare to the search for the pole or the northwest passage. This books has its place but is not my favorite.

The final volume in the "Top of the World" series, "Tundra" is a land-based, rather than sea- and ice-based version of the earlier books. Canadian author Farley Mowat completes a marvellous history of the Arctic by looking at some of the first recorded overland journeys into Canada's far north. This is country that Mowat came to know well. After the war he spent several seasons in the Arctic travelling the Barren lands with members of a branch of the Inuits, the Ihalmiuts, soon

afterwards to be completely wiped out, mainly by contact with Europeans. Mowat tells the story of their demise in "People of the Deer" and a companion volume, "The Desperate People." "Tundra," on the other hand, is not Mowat's story, but is taken from primary sources, mainly diaries of those who did the travelling, and is a vivid and intense recounting of the up-river journeying of some of history's most adventurous travellers. Farley Mowat has done a great job of making this material accessible. If you have any interest in the Arctic, or Canadian history, or to some extent, the native peoples of Canada (Mowat has been criticised, probably unfairly, for his treatment of native people in his books), or if you just want a good plain adventure story, I highly recommend the three books in this series.

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