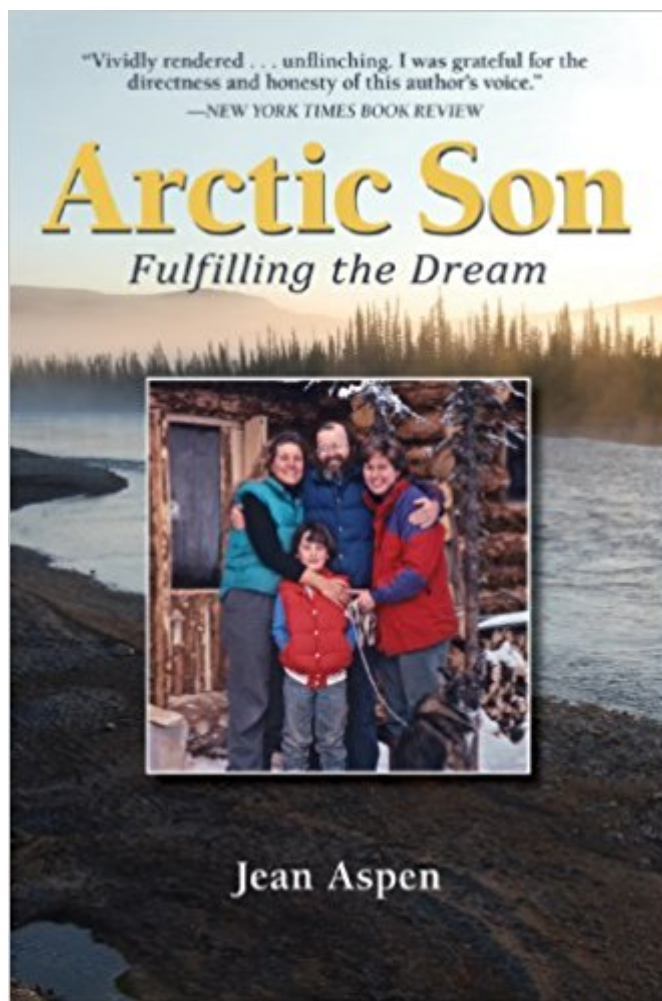




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Arctic Son: Fulfilling The Dream



Synopsis

The chronicle of a family's first year alone in Alaskan wilderness, here is a poetic exploration into what we value in life. In 1992 Jean Aspen took her husband, Tom, and their young son to live in Alaska's interior mountains where they built a cabin from logs, hunted for food, and let the vast beauty of the Arctic close around them. Jean had faced Alaska's wilderness alone before in a life-altering experience she shared in *ARCTIC DAUGHTER: a Wilderness Journey*. Cut off from the rest of the world for more than a year, now her family would discover strength and beauty in their daily lives. They candidly filmed themselves and later produced a companion documentary, *ARCTIC SON: Fulfilling the Dream*, which shows on PBS stations across the nation. From an encounter with a grizzly bear at arm's length to a challenging six-hundred-mile river passage back to civilization, *ARCTIC SON* chronicles fourteen remarkable months alone in the Brooks Range. At once a portrait of courage, a lyrical odyssey, and authentic adventure, this is a family's extraordinary journey into America's last frontier. Follow them at www.jeanaspen.com

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Jean Aspen helps us believe in the power of our dreams . . . her description of the fragile but magnificent beauty of the Arctic and the life she found there grabs your heart until you start wondering if maybe it’s time to leave it all behind and follow your own dreams.” —Barbara Wieser, coauthor of *Rivers Running Free: Stories of Adventurous Women* “Vividly rendered . . . unflinching . . . I was grateful . . . for the directness and honesty of this author’s voice.” —*New York Times Book Review* “A

stirring adventure, well told. Jean Aspen and her family's journey offers hope that dreams, wilderness, and family still hold value. Robert Perkins, author of *Into the Great Solitude* "A must read for any parent (and their children) who has ever contemplated the wonder of nature." Jonathan Waterman, Author

Daughter of arctic explorer Constance Helmericks, Jean Aspen began life in the wilderness. Throughout six decades, the natural world has remained central to her. Jean is the author of *Arctic Daughter* and *Arctic Son*. She and her husband, Tom Irons, live in Alaska and spend much of each year in Alaskan wilds.

I read *Arctic Daughter* years ago and enjoyed it even though I found myself saying WTF over and over at their gear, food, and timing choices. They were young and inexperienced and that they survived and thrived despite some very poor choices (untrained puppy) was both a testament to their hard work and will and a generous dose of luck. I thought it would be interesting to see how the author had grown and changed 20 some odd years later, but instead I meet a middle-aged woman who seems more needy, more self-focused, and who takes a second untrained and ill-suited puppy into the wild and is surprised when it ends badly. Frankly, I'm not surprised the dog came to a sad end, I'm just amazed that the child didn't. The author seems to have trouble grasping that children are raised to obey you not to stifle their souls, but to keep them safe as they grow into an age where they can reason. A 6 year old who doesn't listen and who doesn't mind adults is a tragedy waiting to happen. Bad enough in the city to have a child who runs out in front of cars or plays with the stove, but in a high-risk environment that kills plenty of mindful adults, it's unconscionable. It's luck that this didn't end very badly.

"*Arctic Son, Fulfilling the Dream*" was a very good read, since I am drawn to non-fiction anyway. I live in Alaska, and I don't have conveniences that the down-south populace have....BUT this family goes beyond living off the grid, as it is commonly known. They are the modern day pioneers in the U.S.'s last frontier. Mosquitos are the secondary bird of Alaska (ask any Alaskan). They and Noseeums are almost smothering in some parts of AK, but most of this State have to put up with these relentless critter. This familyI don't know, are so tough, I would've gone mad, just from the skeeters. Without the bugs, surviving is a huge challenge for most. Want to know Alaska in all of it's rawness.....Read this. I also ordered the DVD.

I very seldom rate a book and there are only 2 books out of the 100's I have read that I never finished this being one. What bothered me about this book was the write was misleading. I orginally bought it thinking I was going to read about a family that "moved" to Alaska to homestead. Instead, it was about a family that took a 14 month camping trip so they could write a book and make a movie of it. It was a money making venture. In the process they would build a cabin as a vacation home for later. This book wasn't written by a homesteader but a writer. There are few homesteaders in Alaska that use words I need to look up in a dictionary or try to paint pictures the way the writer here does. If you are looking for a book about living and surviving in Alaska this isn't it. If you are looking to read about someones camping trip then you may enjoy this book. Actually wish I could get my money back.

Excellent command of the descriptive. I could feel, see and hear life in the Arctic. Thoroughly enjoyed the read.

would read it again

Relaxing and informative. Jean and Tom build a beautiful place in what I think is as close to heaven as we could get. The hard work and commitment to their dream shows throughout the film

Fair read. Not as good as other Alaskan books I've read.

Interesting all of the way through. And a perfect ending. However I was hoping their dog would come home with pups.

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