

(Read now) A Year in Lapland

A Year in Lapland

Hugh Beach

**Download PDF | ePub | DOC | audiobook | ebooks*

 Download

 Read Online

#2925841 in Books Smithsonian 2000-01-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 .93 x 6.33 x 9.33l, #File Name: 1560982306227 pages | File size: 34.Mb

Hugh Beach : A Year in Lapland before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Year in Lapland:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Captivating story, compelling context - utterly delightful!By Gregory HayesAlmost forty years ago, young anthropology graduate Hugh Beach left the US for remotest Sweden to become a reindeer herder. Through this gripping story of his first year -- with all its discoveries, surprises, delights, and challenges -- he paints a vivid picture of the Saami, the indigenous Nordic people who continue to pursue a livelihood that constantly changes with the continuing expansion of modern culture and technology. Not just a snapshot from 1973, the story encompasses the roots of the herding traditions and, with an epilogue and an afterword from two subsequent editions, a fast-forward through time to a dramatically different view in 2001.My curiosity about indigenous culture, and how it has evolved alongside the pressing modernization of Sweden, is more than satisfied. But it's Hugh Beach's very personal account of his own adventure that makes me want to recommend the book to friends. He immerses us in the world through his eyes, with frank accounts of his own struggles and how through the year his companions helped shape him. The story leaves me longing for a year like his, for an experience so life-changing, for the depth and richness of knowledge and experience that comes from such total immersion.The tale for the most part ends at the completion of the reindeer herding cycle, one year after it's begun, but the afterword and epilogue are essential reading. Bittersweet "where are they nows" of a personal, cultural, and political nature tell the tale of rapid changes in the world of the Saami, from the devastating fallout of Chernobyl to the advent of the internet.

Though Beach makes obvious his love for, and alignment with, the herders and the wilderness they depend on, he gives a very realistic wide angle view on the interrelation of many opposing viewpoints, forces, and challenges, and how their interplay will ultimately determine the fate of the Swedish Saami's world. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great read and provided a window into living north of ...By Laura P DeGolierA great read and provided a window into living north of the Arctic Circle. I followed the read with a visit and it was great preparation for the visit. A well written book that would have been a pleasure even if I had not visited. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy sydney lariosCame later than expected but my husband is excited to read it.

As a young man American Hugh Beach went to live with the Saami reindeer herders of Swedish Lapland. His lyrically written and very personal story of trying to fit into the herding way of life is a rare insider's account of the Saami. In a passionate and informed Afterword to this new edition of the book, he revisits his old friends and looks at how Sweden is attempting to balance the conflicting needs of reindeer herders and environmentalists in the 21st century.

From Publishers WeeklyOn his first visit to Swedish Lapland, in 1973, Swedish anthropologist Beach stayed 17 months. In subsequent years he returned to take part in every phase of reindeer herding and to observe the effect of modern technology on the herders' wilderness lifestyle. His account of time spent with the Tuorpon Saami (Lapps) in the Jokkmokk District embraces an awesome story of grueling work, adventure and friendship above the Arctic Circle. Beach lived in his own goattieh , a dome-shaped, turf-covered hut with a fireplace in its center. In addition to skis and dogs, the Saami use snowmobiles ("scooters") and walkie-talkies to gather reindeer. In summer, the main activity is calf-marking; in autumn, dividing the herds. The annual moose hunt precedes slaughter of the bucks. Winter brings the arduous task of driving thousands of reindeer from the mountains to pasture in the southeast forests. Beach gives a memorable portrait of a vanishing way of life. Illustrations not seen by PW. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalAmerican anthropologist Beach tells of his first year among the Saami reindeer herders of Swedish Lapland. His narrative interweaves adventure, descriptions of the harsh beauty of the landscape, supernatural tales, and ancient myths. Beach also explores change in the lives of the herders brought on by laws requiring village groups to move and by adaptations to new items such as rubber boots, seaplanes, and modern appliances. The author lives with the herders according to their code, just as Richard Nelson (The Island Within , LJ 10/1/89) lived cooperatively with Native Americans. Highly recommended for all general collections.- Mary J. Nickum, The MAXIMA Corp., Lanham, Md.Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Kirkus sIn a lighthearted homage to a threatened way of life, an American anthropologist recalls his first year among the Saami reindeer herders of Lapland. Beach (Cultural Anthropology/Uppsala University, Sweden) was 15 when his Swedish grandmother first took him to a Saami summer calf-marking, in which reindeer herders notch the ears of their herds' newest additions before releasing them for grazing. The incident marked Beach as well: After studying anthropology at Harvard, he raced back to Sweden in 1973 to sign up as a reindeer hand with the Tuorpon herders of Jokkmokk, north of the Arctic Circle. Teased, humored, and painstakingly educated by his polite and often mischievous hosts, the author joined a herder family at their summer settlement, where he listened to tales of evil trolls and ghost reindeer herds; partook in fortune-telling sessions; and learned to fish Saami-style and to share his cognac afterward. Moving on to Staloluokta, Beach was lent an empty goattieh (a dome- shaped, turf-covered dwelling) and allowed to help with the gathering and marking of the reindeer. In August, he journeyed to Parka to help separate the herds before mating season. But the most difficult and dramatic season was winter, when the herders ventured on skis through blinding blizzards, first to hunt moose, then to guide their herds back toward summer grazing. Beach gratefully suffered frostbite, snow blindness, and freezing nights for the chance to live the Saami life. Having returned often since, he has witnessed the bureaucratic restrictions, misguided conservation efforts, and wind-borne radiation from Chernobyl that continue to affect the herders, but he remains convinced that the Saami sense of identity continues intact, and he reminds readers that to remain static is also to die. An enthusiastic report by a man in love with his subject, best read on a cold winter's night. (Twelve color, 43 bw illustrations) -- Copyright 1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.