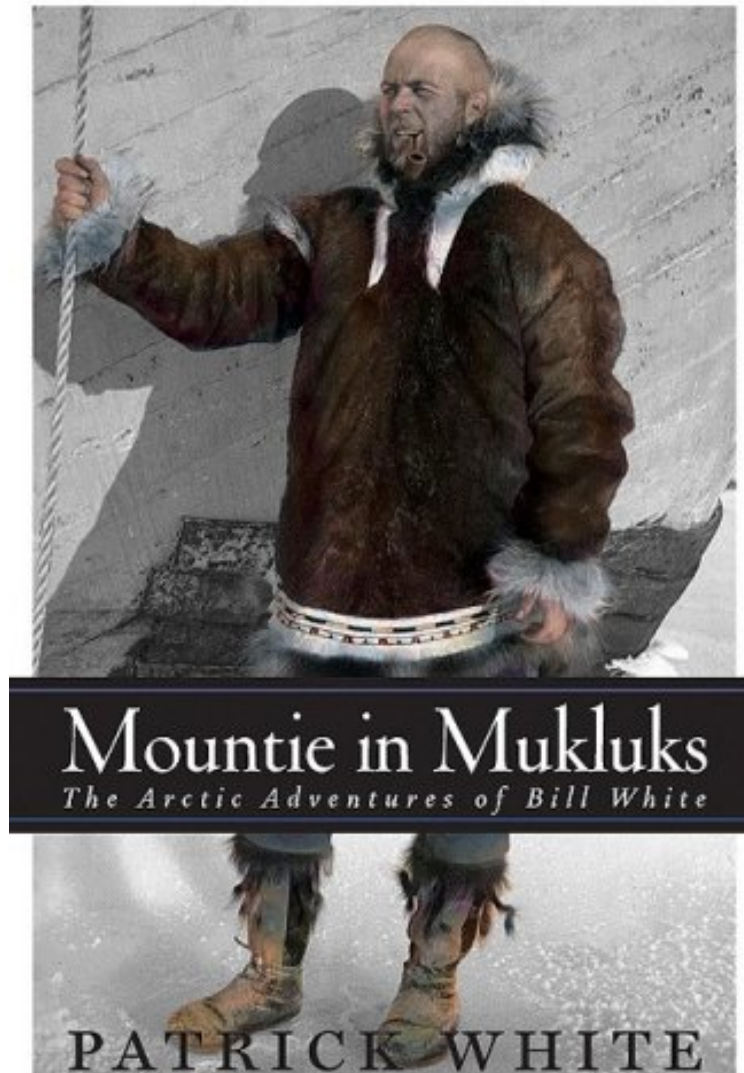


[FREE] Mountie in Mukluks: The Arctic Adventures of Bill White

Mountie in Mukluks: The Arctic Adventures of Bill White

Patrick White

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Patrick White : Mountie in Mukluks: The Arctic Adventures of Bill White before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mountie in Mukluks: The Arctic Adventures of Bill White:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not goodBy M. SavokI didn't like the cussing in the book and threw it away. I wanted to read it, but couldn't finish it.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. THE WAY IT WAS: LIFE IN THE OLD NORTHBy Jim GreenI have a whole passel of personal connections with this book. Not only did I once live on the arctic coast for several years, I've fished the mouth of the river that almost took Bill's life. I

was still living in Toloyoak in 1974 when Bill White made his return trip to Cam. Bay after 40 years, though I didn't know it at the time. I've walked and crawled all over the St. Roch in its permanent berth at the Vancouver Maritime Museum and visited Pasley Bay on the Boothia Peninsula where it once overwintered in the ice. Thanks to James Eetoolook and Pat Lyall I've visited almost every landfall along the ice coast the St. Roch stopped into the summer of 1930. Then, while living on the Sunshine Coast in 1975, the author's father, Howard White (they aren't related to Bill), loaned me a copy of Bill's original 175 page manuscript. I thought it a dry read, historically questionable in places and grossly over opinionated. In fact, when Bill asked me what I thought of it, I told him I figured his opinions were as valid as anybody else's'. Holy poop! "Opinions," he bellowed, and that was the end of that politically incorrect conversation. Jim

LIFE IN THE OLD NORTH "I never wanted to be a cop. Christ, I didn't want to spend my life handing out traffic tickets. I joined the RCMP so I could get up north. There was nothing more to it." So opens this illuminating book about four years in the life of Bill White, one of the most unlikely of cops ever to build an igloo. Written entirely in the first person by Patrick White (no relation to Bill), this tale will captivate arctic buffs, RCMP enthusiasts, historians and everybody else interested in a first hand glimpse of "the best years of my life;" how it was in the central arctic in the early 1930s. Life in the old north. "I decided to join up with an eye on getting to the Arctic as soon as possible." After basic training in Regina: "...really nothing more than a modified Boy Scouts program," Bill began his career herding naked Doukhobours and chasing bootleggers along the US border in Saskatchewan. He applied for arctic service and was transferred to Vancouver, there to await transport north. Bill shipped out of Vancouver aboard the St. Roch under the command of the legendary Henry Larsen in June 1930, bound for the arctic. The book dishes up a smorgasbord of written and visual delicacies (there are 80 some black and white photographs throughout); snapshots of the old police posts at Herschel Island, Baillie Island, Bernard Harbour, Coppermine and Cambridge Bay as the St. Roch flounders in frigid swells, scrapes through pack ice, bounces off reefs, dodges bergs and slams across sand bars. Bill meets arctic veterans like trader Charlie Klengenber and his son Patsy, Ikey Bolt who married Charlie's daughter Etna, Gjoa Haven Canalaska trader George Washington Porter, Tree River Hudson's Bay trader Otto Binder and Mrs. Pannigabluk Stefansson. He befriends Sam Carter, Mahik and L. A. Learmouth. In fact, he and Learmouth once liberated three quarts of alcohol from the compass of the good ship Maud, by then a half submerged derelict in Cambridge Bay, and the two'm ended up having a fine old time. Learning to live in the country, Bill was taught how to build an igloo, hunt caribou and seals. He spent the better part of each summer in a fish camp at Wellington Bay. And he got to go trapping too, albeit illegally, bringing in \$3,500.00 in white foxes one year; quite a boost to his \$700.00 annual salary. A census took him over 700 miles by dog team to count 750 northern folk widely scattered over a wide chunk of real estate. Another trip took him a thousand miles by dogs to retrieve a body and witnesses in an alleged murder case. Returning south to another land and another life, Bill finally revisited Cambridge Bay in June of 1974, went fishing with Bill Lyall and had tea again with Angulalik and his old friend Mahik. "On a windy autumn day, snow crunching underfoot, two active Mounties, a priest and two Inuit elders stood on Mount Pelly, the hill overlooking Cambridge Bay, with Bill's ashes." It was the fall of 2001. Constable Dean Larkin let the wind scatter Bill's mortal remains in the one place in the world where he had always felt he belonged. Bill White was home. This may Patrick's White's first book but he's sure enough learned how to use his tools. Patrick has done a bang up job of rendering Bill's adventures imminently readable, historically sound and immensely enjoyable. Feet up beside the wood stove, Mountie in Mukluks was a fine trip for me. Review by Jim Green0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Mountie in Mukluks By Desert Dreamer This book is incredibly refreshing and honest. Finally, a man who is not afraid to speak the truth and who really immersed himself in the Inuk culture to be able to understand these Canadians. A book well worth buying as you will want to read it over and over.

But readers of Mountie in Mukluks will soon realize they are in the presence of one of the most un-cop-like cops who ever built an igloo. And by the time they have finished they will never be able to think quite the same way about the fabled Redcoats, or life in the far north. During the 1930s, Bill White gave up trapping and joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, volunteering for arctic service. Arctic life was so dodgy in those days of the Mad Trapper and The Lost Patrol, the force couldn't send you there against your will, so volunteering was the only way to get there. Bill started out crewing on the historic RCMP patrol ship St. Roch under the command of the legendary Captain Henry Larsen, but hungered for greater adventure and requested a posting ashore upon reaching Cambridge Bay. Adventure he found: Mountie in Mukluks includes hair-raising accounts of a near-death experience under the ice on a frozen river; of a 1200-mile dog-sled chase after an arctic murderer; and of numerous fascinating encounters with shamans, telepathy and an Inuit way of life that has now vanished from the earth. White's absorbing oral accounts of life in the old north, molded into lively prose by Patrick White, place Mountie in Mukluks among classics of arctic literature like *Kabloona* by Gontran de Poncins and *People of the Deer* by Farley Mowat. Mountie in Mukluks is sure to cause a stir among enthusiasts of police and Arctic lore. As a cop who chose to adopt a Native lifestyle and was honoured with his own Inuit name, Bill White makes a devastating critique of the white settler way of life and its red-coated enforcers who disdained the traditions of the Inuit while simultaneously relying on them for survival.

"Obviously, Bill White never had much patience with anyone at any level who didn't give the Inuit their full due and his colourful stories prove it. With language that can be crude, rude, caustic, and coarse - but never truly profane - White declares his thoughts and feelings for the North and 'everything that makes the Arctic hard to live in: cold, wind, ice and lunatics.' Despite his apparent dislike of myths and legends, Bill White has become one himself. His book is first-class Arctic Canadiana that everyone should read."-M. Wayne Cunningham, Kamloops Daily News

About the Author Patrick White is a British Columbia journalist whose interest in the north dates back to his early childhood when the old Arctic traveler Bill White (no relation) used to visit Patrick's family and recount his riveting tales of chasing Arctic murderers across the frozen tundra. Later, while taking a course in Arctic history at the University of Victoria, Patrick discovered an aural archive of Bill's Arctic experiences. He was struck again by the originality, authenticity and historical value of Bill's account and resolved to get it down on paper. *Mountie in Mukluks* is his first book. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.

Bill White (1905-2001) was born in Bala, Ontario and grew up on a farm near Yellowgrass, Saskatchewan. He trapped in the Lac La Ronge area of northern Saskatchewan before enlisting in the RCMP and requesting Arctic service in 1930. After leaving the force in 1934 he worked in Vancouver's wartime shipyards and became president of the Marine Workers and Boilermakers Union, a post he held for 11 years. He was the subject of one other book, *A Hard Man to Beat* (1984) by Howard White.