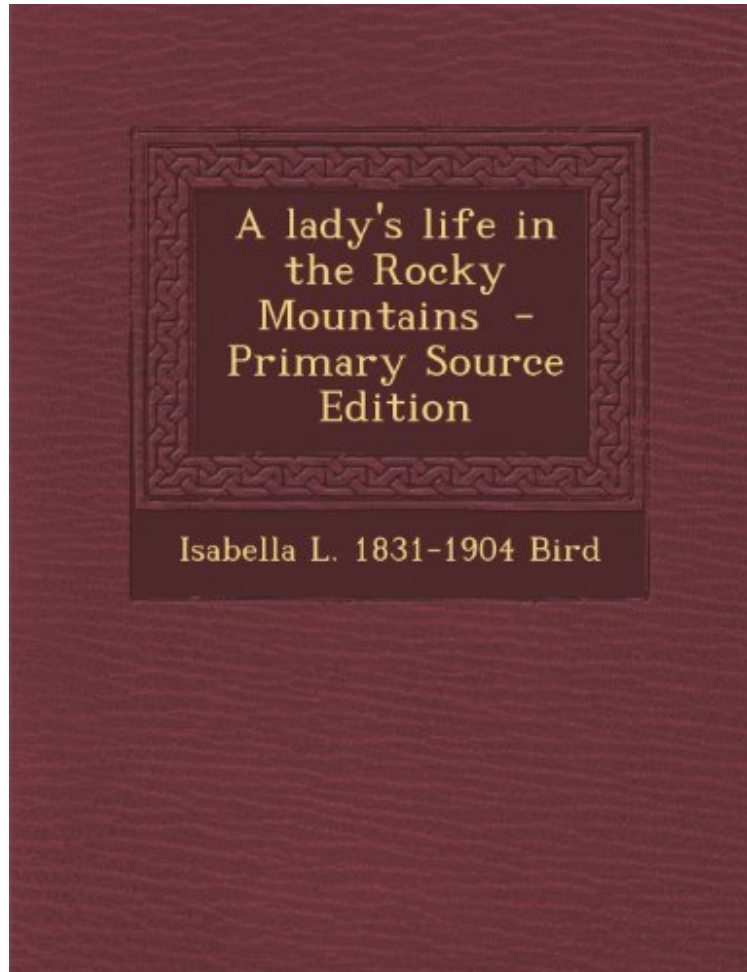


(Download) Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains

Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains

Isabella L. 1831-1904 Bird

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Isabella L. 1831-1904 Bird : Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Three Winter Months in 1873, On Foot or Horseback, Alone or with Mountain JimBy OwlIt is 1873. A 41 year old woman has enjoyed six months in Hawaii's summerland. On her way home to England, she decides to take in Colorado's celebrated mountain scenery. This being her habit, every night she writes the story of her day's adventures in a letter to her sister. "A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains" brings together these vivid, often touching, and almost always exciting letters of high adventure from way high---between 6,000 and 14,000 feet---in the Rockies.Isabella Lucy Bird could hardly have chosen a worse time for a visit. First, she arrived in September, staying only three months in Colorado's bitterly cold, deeply snowy weather. Second, the banks were in a financial crisis and she could not cash a letter of credit; at one time, she was down to less than 50 cents which had to last her mote than three weeks. Her and her horse, Birdie, that is. Third, at the time travelers had to rely on the

kindness of strangers, dropping in unannounced to houses perhaps 10 to 20 miles apart on the rough trails, often inhabited in winter by a few men paid to look after the cattle. Now-and-then, a settler's house could be found, though the desperately hard-scrabble life made for less-than-warmest welcomes. To the lonely men who were unfailingly chivalrous, Isabella may have looked mighty appealing. At any rate, Isabella knew how to make herself welcomed. She could cook, clean, sing, join prayers, and was particularly sought as a cowhand able to ride hard, fast, and wrangle cattle. Like a Shaharizade, she had hundreds of stories to tell of her travels exploits. Even better, she was a sympathetic listener, including listening to the life story of one desperado, Mountain Jim, he of the buff physique, gentlemanly manners, literary aspirations, and long golden curls. She tells us with zest of her exploits (a favorite word) riding miles alone at night wolves howling around her, of falling into icy rivers when her exhausted horse stumbles, of purple mountains' majesty, and of people living hard lives indeed. She does not stint on adjectives: "Every tree was silvered and the fir-tufts of needles looked like white chrysanthemums. The snow lay a foot deep in the gulches...Ice bridges had formed across streams and I crossed them without knowing when. Gulches looked fathomless abysses, with clouds boiling out of them, and shaggy mountain summits, half seen for a moment through the eddies, as quickly vanished. Everything looked vast and indefinite..." In the end, again on her way, she writes of her last view of Colorado: "...I saw 'Mountain Jim,' his golden hair yellow in the sunshine slowly leading the beautiful mare over the snowy plains to Estes Park, equipped with the saddle on which I had ridden 800 miles." This is a fine read for the armchair traveler, the time traveler, the admirer of intrepid women, those intrigued by pioneering days, and devotees of the practice of chutzpah. (As a reader alert, Isabella disparages Native Americans among other people, admiring what most closely resembles a fine English lady or gentleman---attitudes not unique to her or her time. Her outrage at the devastation of the land, however, is eloquent, consistent, and insightful.) "A Lady's Life" is a most excellent value new and even better used at one cent a copy. This well-presented edition comes with an introductory essay by historian Daniel Boostin, an outstanding map of Isabella's tour, and a usable index, etchings of glorious scenery and on the cover, a painting of the Glacier Point view with half-dome in Yosemite. This is probably the go-to edition. The book would be a fine gift to a friend about to visit Colorado or as a treat for oneself. Well-done, Isabella Lucy. Readers for over 150 years have been enjoying your tales of winter in the Rockies---me too! And I really liked the excellent features of this edition, particularly the essay and the map. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. What a gal! By Mac DI read this book after returning from a trip to Estes Park and wanted to extend my memories of this beautiful place. This woman was unbelievable and so gutsy for her time. I not only read absolutely beautiful descriptions of the places I had seen but also got a glimpse of life during the 1870s in the old West along with some real characters. To think that this woman rode some 700 miles mostly alone in the Rocky Mountains through all kinds of weather conditions and often in the dark just leaves me in awe. I only gave 4 stars instead of 5 because toward the end it did seem to get long. I would highly recommend to anyone familiar with Estes Park. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Unflappable Ms Bird By Linda Ballou Why did this truly remarkable woman ride 800 miles in 1873 through the Rocky Mountains in the dead of winter alone? She like many in England suffering from a damp climate came for the "camp cure" of the thin dry air of Colorado. But, beyond that she was mesmerized by the sublimity and ethereal beauty of the place. She stayed with families leading hard lives of subsistence, living in unchinked log cabins where snow settled on her bed over the night. She lent a hand in all endeavors; herding cattle, baking bread, washing dishes and clothes. Observations made to her sister in a series of letters are telling. A hard working lack luster lifestyle spiced with tales of adventure from hunters, trappers around the fire in the evening become her routine. A desperado named Mountain Jim became her guide and companion on many of her rides through country she describes with the passion of the devout. In her lifetime Ms. Bird traveled extensively writing letters from the Sandwich Islands, China, India and other exotic realms before she passed at 73. I truly admire this plucky lady's zest for life and true Brit grit.

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In 1854, at the age of twenty-two, Isabella Bird left England and began traveling as a cure for her ill health. Over the years she explored Asia, the Sandwich Islands, Hawaii, and both the Eastern and Western United States. *A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains* contains letters written to her sister during her six-month journey through the Colorado Rockies in 1873. Traveling alone, usually on horseback, often with no clear idea of where she will spend the night in what is mostly uninhabited wilderness, she covers over a thousand miles, most of it during the winter months. A well-educated woman who had known a comfortable life, she thinks nothing of herding cattle at a hard gallop, falling through ice, getting lost in snowstorms, and living in a cabin where the temperatures are well below zero and her ink freezes even as she writes. She befriends desperados and climbs 14,000 foot mountains, ready for any adventure that

allows her to see the unparalleled beauty of nature. Her rare complaints have more to do with having to ride side-saddle while in town than with the conditions she faces. An awe-inspiring woman, she is also a talented writer who brings to life Colorado of more than one hundred years ago, when today's big cities were only a small collection of frame houses, and while and beautiful areas were still largely untouched. --Erica Bauermeister

About the Author Isabella Lucy Bird married name Bishop (1831-1904) was a nineteenth-century English explorer, writer, photographer and naturalist. She was the first woman to be elected Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. Bird was born on 15 October 1831 at Boroughbridge Hall, Yorkshire, the home of her maternal grandmother. Her parents were the Reverend Edward Bird and his second wife Dora Lawson. Isabella moved several times during her childhood. Boroughbridge was her father's first curacy after taking orders in 1830, and it was here he met Dora. In 1832, Reverend Bird was appointed curate in Maidenhead where Isabella's brother, Edward was born and died in his first year. As a result of her father's ill health the family moved again in 1834 to Tattenhall in Cheshire, - a living presented to him by his cousin Dr John Bird Sumner, Bishop of Chester where in the same year Isabella's sister, Henrietta, was born. Isabella was outspoken from an early age. When six years old, she asked the local MP for South Cheshire: " Sir Malpas de Grey Tatton Egerton, did you tell my father my sister was so pretty because you wanted his vote ? " Edward Bird's controversial views against Sunday labour caused his congregation to dwindle and in 1842 he requested a transfer to St Thomas's in Birmingham. Here again objections were raised which culminated in the minister being pelted "with stones, mud, and insults." In 1848, the family moved again and after spending some time in Eastbourne took up residence in Wyton in Huntingdonshire (now Cambridgeshire.)