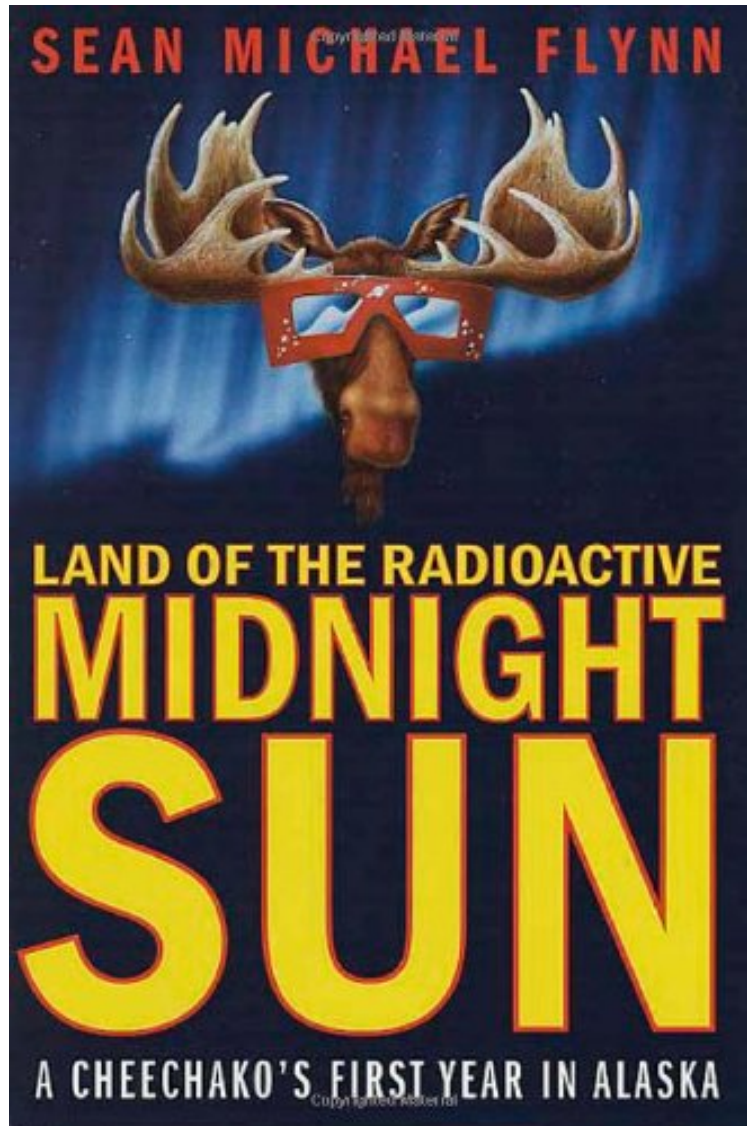


[Download] Land of the Radioactive Midnight Sun: A Cheechako's First Year in Alaska

Land of the Radioactive Midnight Sun: A Cheechako's First Year in Alaska

Sean Michael Flynn

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Sean Michael Flynn : Land of the Radioactive Midnight Sun: A Cheechako's First Year in Alaska before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Land of the Radioactive Midnight Sun: A Cheechako's First Year in Alaska:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An excellent, hilarious read for anyone thinking about moving to Alaska By D. Peterson I was stationed at Eielson at the same time as Sean but mainly knew him from his hilarious and

entertaining (and eventually banned) columns in the base newspaper. I found the book by accident years later while stationed at Elmendorf AFB in Anchorage, AK. Sean's account so perfectly encapsulates life as a Cheechako in the interior of Alaska it has to be a must read for anyone thinking of moving to, or even visiting, the heart of the last American frontier. Sean's newspaper columns were the topic of conversation every week in what was probably the most read USAF base paper in history - and his book is an ongoing laugh-fest with a style all his own, though very reminiscent of great humorists writers like Dave Barry. His experiences, while typical of a young, single guy (as I was at the time), give a true picture of what Alaska is all about. You don't have to know about Alaska or like the military to find this book a fascinating and eminently enjoyable read - but if you've ever been in the military, visited or thought about visiting Alaska - this is a book you can't pass up!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One good book, lemme tell you! By Curt Seefeldt
One good book, lemme tell you! The author has a great sense of humor and has a knack of mixing that with his experiences in Alaska while in the Air Force. Light reading, comical, and yet educational.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great insight into living in the land of the Midnight ...
By steve reilly
Great insight into living in the land of the Midnight Sun. Interesting in learning, the ups downs and how to stay alive in weather that most of us will never see, or live in. Fun reading it
If you ever wanted to live in, or visit the north country, read this, before you buy your ticket.

"In New York City, a Cheechako (chee CHA-ko) would be the kid who just fell off the turnip truck. No street smarts. A pink windbreaker. A subway map sticking from his back pocket...In Alaska, a Cheechako is even easier to spot. He's the guy with his tongue stuck to a metal pole. A tenderfoot. A greenhorn." "Land of the Radioactive Midnight Sun is the story of Lt. Sean Michael Flynn as he tries to survive his first year in Alaska. With romantic notions of Jack London and Bush piloting, Lt. Flynn requests a transfer to Eielson Air Force Base outside of Fairbanks, Alaska. He is a bit unnerved at how easy the transfer goes through. From a rugby game on a frozen river to living across from Santa's Village to random moose attacks to soaring over the Bush in an F-16, Land of the Radioactive Midnight Sun is a hilarious trial-by-many-errors account of what it takes to become a true Alaskan.

From Publishers Weekly
For one year in the late 1990s, Flynn was posted to Eielson Air Force Base near Fairbanks, Alaska, as a public affairs officer, one of the "desk weenies" assigned to put a good face on unpopular military activities, like environmentally hazardous combat flying exercises and radioactivity-fueled facilities on native lands. His personal goal was to transform himself from "cheechako," or greenhorn Lower 48-er, into a "real Alaskan." While he approached his duties spinning bad news for the military with seasoned skepticism-noting his lies in parentheses for the reader-the challenge of becoming a real Alaskan seemed to involve his manhood and was therefore more serious. Commenting on underdressed (for the weather) rugby players, he concludes, "they're all just afraid of being called a wimp. Any guy can appreciate that." He treats readers to several bloody and drunken rugby matches in 30-below weather, plus some attempts at dogsledding, salmon and halibut fishing, moose eating and gold panning. Flynn liberally seasons this virile menu with complaints about the difficult guy/gal ratio and more than a little finger-pointing at the gals who look like guys. Ultimately, Flynn decides being a real Alaskan is less about endurance and more about attitude (e.g., if you're freezing, go get a jacket or stop sitting in the snow). In the last pages, Flynn, like many of his "real Alaskan" friends, leaves Alaska for more urban settings-after all, as Flynn puts it, Manhattan's so much better at "pizza and women." Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.
From Booklist
First, a definition: cheechako is a term from the Alaskan gold rush; it describes someone who is completely new to the territory, a tenderfoot, a babe in the woods. That handily sums up the author, a U.S. Air Force public affairs officer from New York, newly arrived for a tour of duty in Alaska. This entertaining book chronicles his first year--the period, traditionally, during which a cheechako either becomes an Alaskan, or bails out, or worse. There's a lot of fun here: the author plays rugby on ice and baseball at sunny midnight. There's some danger, too: a Jaguar aircraft crashes not too far from Flynn's base. And there are plenty of laughs, as the author milks the fish-out-of-water premise for all it's worth. Although he's neither as funny nor as linguistically accomplished a writer as Bill Bryson, Flynn can play in the same ballpark, and he keeps the pace fast and the story lively. David Pitt
Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "A warm, bright book about our coldest, darkest state, this comic gem reminds us how very little separates the brave from the stupid." --Camden Joy, author of Palm Tree 13 and The Last Rock Star Book
"Anyone curious about how public affairs figures in military missions and omissions should enjoy Lt. Flynn's insider perspectives on the brass running Eielson Air Force Base, damage control in the wake of high-altitude mishaps, and war games terrorizing Arctic wildlife, not to mention the insights flowing from the cup of a bachelor-in-uniform contemplating Alaska's most elusive resource, women of the Last Frontier. Land of the Radioactive Midnight Sun is a hilarious romp through Interior Alaska and rates a medal for public disclosure, but the Air Force brass may lean toward a firing squad." --Brian Patrick O'Donoghue, Alaska journalist, author of My Lead Dog was a Lesbian