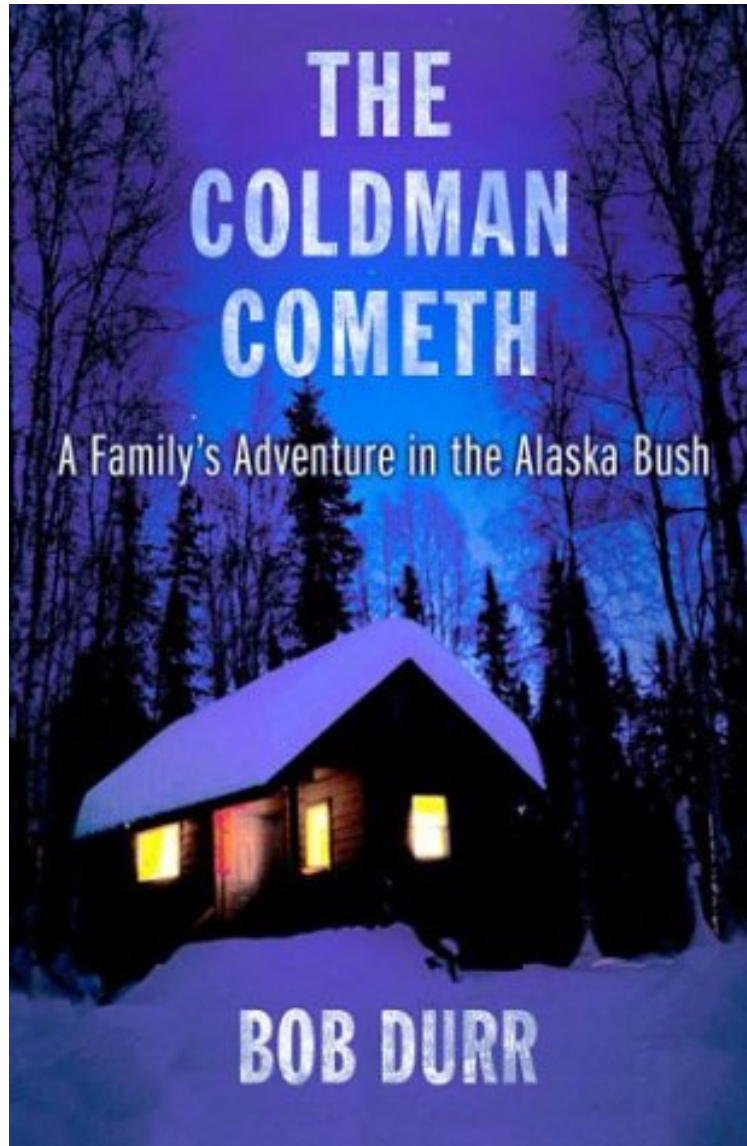


[Read free] The Coldman Cometh: A Family's Adventure in the Alaska Bush

The Coldman Cometh: A Family's Adventure in the Alaska Bush

Bob Durr

ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#3391892 in Books 2004-07-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.60 x 1.15 x 5.70l, #File Name: 0312311796320 pages | File size: 75.Mb

Bob Durr : The Coldman Cometh: A Family's Adventure in the Alaska Bush before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Coldman Cometh: A Family's Adventure in the Alaska Bush:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Jason T Neton A fantastic memoir, highly recommended. Funny, touching, amazing story of homesteading in the wild. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Let's hope he's grown up in the last 40 years By Lisa Kearns I love reading books about families who relocate

to the arctic wilderness, and I was happy to find this one. The cute, snow-covered cabin on the cover lured me in. However, I was only a few pages into the book when I realized that Bob Durr is a selfish, immature jerk. I understand that the book was written about their lives in the late 60s and early 70s, but the hippy, counter-culture, dope smoking, drop out, anti-establishment routine got tedious and embarrassing very quickly. Bob is about 40 during the time he writes about, and yet he seems to see himself as a 20 year old. Bob quit his job as a tenured professor and writer at a university to move to the North. He took along his wife and children, and determined that they would live close to nature in a cabin in Alaska. But instead of reading about how the family built their cabin and learned to survive, most of the book is about how his 20 year old hippy son and his friends came to live with them, commune style. They drink and smoke pot and take LSD, and even accidentally (and to Bob's great amusement) gave LSD to an old man who hallucinated and panicked for three days. He writes admiringly about the rock band his son belongs to, and barely mentions his younger kids. He writes about the stoned, skinny dipping nights with the hippy kids, and gives unflattering descriptions of the people in nearby towns. Most of Bob's time is spent partying and philosophizing on how easy people lived in the days before the Industrial Revolution. For a highly educated man, I'm astounded that he can gloss over the starvation, illness, poverty and early death those people suffered. Oh wait, he was high, so that explains it. His long suffering wife sits in the cabin with their younger children while Bob goes to strip clubs on drinking benders for days, hangs out at the lake with the hippies half his age, and generally lives HIS drop-out dream. He runs into a native woman in a bar and muses that if he weren't married he would go home with her - because she's full blood and it would be a novel experience. If I were his wife I would have packed up and left, and found a real man to live with. The saddest part is that at the end of this book, the oldest son writes an epilogue that says his mother (calling her by her first name, not MOM) died of cancer 25 years later, and that they're still all living on the land and playing the guitar around the campfire. I don't like to write bad reviews for books - I love books and can almost always relate to the authors to some degree. But I found this book offensive, the cover and title misleading, and Bob Durr to be a pitiful example of husband, father and wilderness man. 15 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Of all the Alaska wilderness books I've read... By Robert P. Marriott The Coldman Cometh was advertised by as a new release and I've read a ton of these Alaska wilderness books so I tried it. Well I was most dissatisfied, of all the authors, many of whom were "uneducated", I've always been satisfied but usually impressed. However, this author with all his credentials is full of himself. Very little of the material is focused on the wilderness adventure but rather on a displaced, pot smoking hippie with an ego. If your looking for the romance of Alaska wilderness homesteading and lifestyle don't look here. This author is purely trying to make a quick buck.

Bob Durr's first book about his adventures in Alaska was published in 1999 (Down in Bristol Bay: High Tides, Hangovers, and Harrowing Experiences on Alaska's Last Frontier). In a sense, that book was prelude to this, because while it touched upon his reasons for undertaking the risky business of "proving up" as a commercial salmon fisherman, it didn't delve deeply into the underlying reasons why he wanted, ultimately, to leave the civilized world altogether. The Coldman Cometh tells the whole story--the "family saga"--of how and why Bob, who was a tenured full professor of English at Syracuse University, resigned in 1968 from his comfortable position and with his wife and four kids journeyed north into the Alaska bush. It's a tale of adventure, of perils, hardships, trials, and triumphs involving close encounters with bears, charging moose, stormy waters, and--probably most dangerous of all--the severe subzero temperatures the Durrs came to call the "Coldman," he of the deadly embrace. The story of those tough, thrilling early years of settling in is told in vivid detail and living color, and with a good deal of humor as well. "What is life for?" Bob asks. "To be safe and a little fat and own nice things? What about the Great Mystery, and what about the wolves?" The Coldman Cometh is not only a memoir of an adventurous quest but an in-depth report of a radical experiment in alternative living. It's a beautiful--and harrowing--account of dropping out of the mainstream: of the smell of pine pitch and roar of a bull moose and the "whys" of the fabulous journey. Ultimately, it's a commentary on society that can only be given by a writer who has so nearly left it.

From Publishers Weekly Durr (Down in Bristol Bay) writes about his move with his family in the 1960s from Syracuse to the Alaskan wilderness with a beat generation-style passion for the wilderness. Giving up a comfortable professorship and suburban life, he brought his wife and four children to a cabin where encounters with moose, bear, ptarmigan and walrus replaced meetings, papers and television. Readers learn not only about how Durrs wife, Carol, adjusted to life in the bush (warming her childrens feet with rabbit sole inserts) and the "predicaments," usually dangerous and primal, that define pioneer-style living, but also about the old-time residents, like Gene Pope, for whom mountains "were never high enough... their slopes never slippery enough." Perhaps as an unavoidable side effect of its subject matter, the book has a dated feel--for instance, Durr refers, albeit with great warmth, to his wife as "my little lady." Interspersing narrative with philosophical, Thoreauvian literary ponderings on why living in the Alaskan bush seems more real than hum-drum American suburban life, Durr finds his "Mysterium Tremendum" in nature. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist In 1968 Durr was a tenured professor of English leading a "respectable middle-class life." Always haunted by some "subliminal

restlessness," he and his family had spent the previous five summers on an isolated Alaskan lake. Finally, Durr gives up his job and moves to Alaska, his wife and four children his enthusiastic companions. The family live in temporary cabins for two years, then build their own cabin on Back Lake, 10 roadless miles north of Talkeetna, far north of Anchorage. Durr is a free spirit who gushes about the "aboriginal satisfaction" of building his own home, aided by a group of "counterculture hippies," including his oldest son. Sprinkled with snippets of Thoreau and Whitman, his tale is full of moose kills, bear scares, bountiful fish, and survival tips on combating long spells of the "Coldman's" temperatures of 40 to 50 degrees below zero. An adventure, a plea for an alternative lifestyle, and a survival saga by an author who still lives his story today, after 35 years in the wild. Deborah Donovan Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved About the Author Bob Durr was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, and earned a B.A. cum laude with Honors in English from Hofstra College, an M.A. from the University of Connecticut on a teaching fellowship, and a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University, where he was awarded the prestigious Gustav Bissing Scholarship. He still lives on the little lake ten miles by trail north of the town of Talkeetna, Alaska.