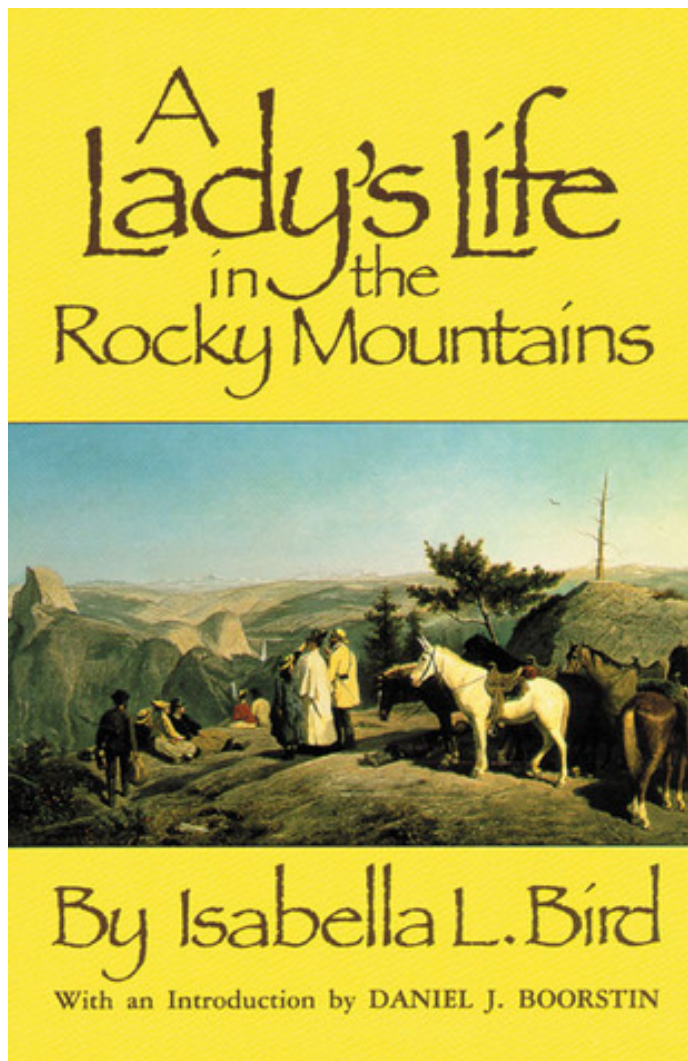

Isabella L. Bird

A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains (Virago Travellers)



Title: A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains
(Virago Travellers)

Author: Isabella L. Bird

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Description

In 1872, Isabella Bird, daughter of a clergyman, set off alone to the Antipodes 'in search of health' and found she had embarked on a life of adventurous travel. In 1873, wearing Hawaiian riding dress, she rode her horse through the American Wild West, a terrain only newly opened to pioneer settlement. The letters that make up this volume were first published in 1879. They tell of magnificent, unspoiled landscapes and abundant wildlife, of encounters with rattlesnakes, wolves, pumas and grizzly bears, and her reactions to the volatile passions of the miners and pioneer settlers. A classic account of a truly astounding journey.

Insightful reviews

Holly Lindquist: Isabella Bird was an extraordinary woman, an adventurer who traveled through Asia, the Hawaiian Islands, and all over the United States in the 1800s. This particular book covers her 1873 trip to the Colorado Rockies, in which she encounters bears, blizzards, and grizzled desperadoes. She scales mountain peaks, sleeps in ice-cold cabins, and sallies forth into lumber camps and wilderness strongholds with daring intrepidity.

One of the most interesting aspects of this adventure is the intriguing chemistry between Bird and "Rocky Mountain Jim" Nugent, a hard-drinking "ruffian" with a dangerous temper. She's a short, rather dumpy Englishwoman. He's a scruffy Irish mountain man who lost an eye to a grizzly. One can imagine the pair they make.. Yet, the hints of romance are barely touched on in Isabella's letters. Did they get together or was it all unrequited longing? I guess we'll never truly know, but it makes for an interesting read.

drowningmermaid: I know it shows my own subcultural bias, but...

I wish this woman's life were a video game.

Evil Cat: Somewhere between 3 and 4 stars. Isabella Bird was an amazing woman but also the kind of idiot who would unthinkingly take stupid risks like setting out for a 30 mile horseback ride in the middle of a blizzard just because that's where she wanted to go. I'm kind of shocked she managed to survive this trip, tbh, but I'd love to have been able to sit down with her and hear all her stories.

Chiara: A lady's lifestyles within the Rocky Mountains could be now not the main intriguing of Isabella L. Bird's books, even though it is either fascinating and enjoyable. The e-book talks approximately Isabella's travels throughout Colorado, the place she spent a number of months after having visited Hawaii. the image used to be that of the settlements and early cities in Colorado at the start of the mining spree. The location, due to its weather and incontaminated nature, had turn into a convalescence resort, and got a couple of travelers who lodged within the few inns and within the settlers' homes for a small fee. During her travel, Isabella encounters breathtaking sceneries, either boring and interesting people, and a large amount of danger, within the kind of inclement weather, offers and funds shortage, and lawless individuals. What I cherished particularly of this publication are the photography-like and emotionally charged descriptions of the sceneries, and the very deep and compassionate ones of the folk she met -

Rocky Mountain Jim, in particular. Now that I believe approximately it, Isabella said Mountain Jim a lot. I feel she chanced on his character fascinating, because it defied any human stereotype: lawless and at times violent, but educated, clever and gentlemanly. A few reviewers hypothesize they had an affair; whereas I don't believe it used to be the case, I definitely think she could have thought of him a suitable suitor - as soon as he had given up drinking. Overall, the publication deals a finest and informative account of the lifetime of the settlers in Colorado at that time, no longer with her ordinary contact of irony. The LibriVox audiobook variation is especially good to learn and straightforward to follow. I feel that commute memoirs make first-class audiobooks, to hear whereas doing anything else (as in my case), simply because they do not require as a lot of cognizance as fiction does, that allows you to be understood. Isabella L. Bird's books make quite reliable audiobooks, simply because they concentrate extra on descriptions and reflections instead of on evidence associated with every one other.

Aubrey: it truly is infrequent that I learn Westerns end result of the style being one of many wronged issues that ever wronged within the historical past of United States' literature. One other one is the vacation being celebrated this present day through the United States Federal Government, an afternoon that my ongoing reads of Genesis and Almanac of the Lifeless has thrown into piercing scrutiny. This painting used to be the unusual one out within the workforce within the brutal experience of the word, anything I knew stands out as the case whilst I began out yet did not deter me due to, frankly, the surprise I felt at studying that an English girl rode countless numbers of miles within the Northwestern USA in 1873 and lived not to in basic terms tell, yet write the tale. Her tale is one the place her deed proves her extra a feminist than her word, a be aware that's horribly imperialist and reasons why I locate extra worthy in one painting of fiction by means of an exact citizen than 100 nonfiction items through tourists, yet with a bag of salt those letters render the idea that of the "fairer sex" null and void. It truly is compromised, yet not like examining anything written by way of a white guy throughout the similar time period, this piece cuts via a number of the bullshit by way of the sheer truth of existing. I go rapidly over the early a part of the journey, the crossing the bay in a fog as relaxed as November, the variety of "lunch baskets," which gave the auto the glance of conveying a very good picnic party, the final view of the Pacific, on which I had sought for approximately a year, the fierce sunshine and outstanding sky inland, the glance of lengthy rainlessness, which one won't name drought, the valleys with aspects pink with the poison oak, the dusty vineyards, with nice red clusters thick one of the leaves, and among the vines nice dusty melons mendacity at the dusty earth. It is helping that she's a good prose stylist, in addition to the truth that for some time on the beginning, she's touring during the region I grew up in. California isn't person who plants up usually within the literature I read, and while it does it really is regularly I. a. that graces the pages, a urban I've got my percentage of thoughts in yet by no means compares to remembrance of the Bay Area. Reveler in imagery that I am, it truly is various while one other is of the same opinion with the oddities, annoyances, and sweetness that I've got encountered in my everyday life in and round San Francisco, a concordance that in basic terms turns into extra valuable while separated via nearly one hundred fifty years. In different words, it made me nostalgic, yet that occurs hardly ever adequate that I will find the money for to indulge. In touring there's not anything like dissecting people's statements, that are often coloured by means of their estimate of the powers or likings of the individual spoken to, making all moderate inquiries, after which pertinaciously yet quietly engaging in one's personal plans. Judgmental she was, yet now not adequate to forbear having a feeling of humor. This and an organization (white) head

on her shoulders helped her immensely via snow storms, bears, close to starvation, a dead poet with a bottomless stomach, and a very notorious desperado known as "Mountain Jim" who fowl had the main fascinating time with simply because she notion he used to be rather hot. She danced round the pronouncement like all white girl did on the time, yet that is the way it was. i've got obvious loads of the roughest type of fellows either on sea and land over the last years, and the extra very important i believe the "mission" of each quiet, refined, self-respecting woman—the extra incorrect i believe those that may forfeit it by means of noisy self-assertion, masculinity, or fastness. This is her in her final letter following up on her viewing the spouse doing all of the paintings in quite a few settlements she stayed at as thoroughly normal. How she could describe her personal dedication to commute that will sooner or later enterprise a ways past seashores either ecu and United States, i will not say. However, she did write it down for these folks who desire a "Look! If she may perhaps do it virtually a hundred and fifty years ago, so can I," each so often, so that is of merit. Birdie slipped so alarmingly that I received off and walked, yet then neither people may possibly retain our feet, and within the darkness she appeared so prone to fall upon me, that I took out of my pack the man's socks which have been given me at Perry's Park, and drew them on over her fore-feet—an expedient which for a time succeeded admirably, and which I commend to all tourists equally circumstanced. A little bit of humor for the road.

Janet Miller: Isabella Bird, a well off English woman, stocks her studies as a unmarried girl touring into the Rocky Mountains and particularly Estes Park within the past due nineteenth century. She lives and loves every piece of the wonderful thing about the mountains during the letters she writes to her sister. As her letters stick with her travels on horseback from Longmont during the tough canyon to Estes Park, it truly is brain boggling to acknowledge the landmarks and take a look at to narrate to the tricky commute of that interval of time. Her residing stipulations and associates go away much to be desired, yet she reveals the wonder in every little thing and loves the experience.

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