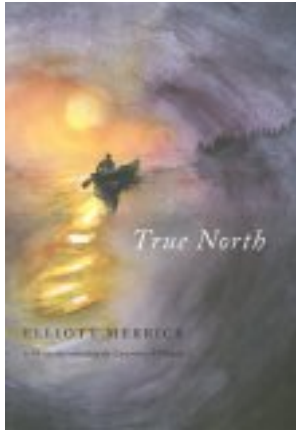


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## Elliott Merrick

### True North: A Journey into Unexplored Wilderness



Title: True North: A Journey into Unexplored Wilderness

Author: Elliott Merrick

Format: Paperback

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## Description

In 1929, at the age of 24, Elliott Merrick left his position as an advertising executive in New Jersey and headed up to Labrador to work as an unpaid volunteer for the Grenfell Mission. In 1933 he wrote *True North* about his experiences in the northern wilderness, living and working with trappers, Indians and with the nurse he met and married in a remote community. The book describes the hard work and severe conditions, along with the joy and friendship he and his wife experienced.

## Insightful reviews

Mike: Elliot Merrick lived the life of Jeremiah Johnson fifty years after Mr. Johnson. An interesting book from start to finish, quite intriguing to see a "greenhorn" and his wife run with seasoned Labradorean fur trappers. Written in the typical style of most memoirs of it's time, ala Beryl Markham, Merrick's book describes beautiful scenes in a way the average person could not today. The imagery was on point and was aided with many similes and metaphors. If you have ever dreamed of leaving civilization and heading north, this is a book that will not talk you down from that ledge, you will want to pack a winter bag and leave.

Lisa Kearns: I received this book through the Amazon Vine program and was excited to begin reading it. I search far and wide for old books about the Far North, written by the people who settled it. I'm grateful this book, which was originally published in 1935, has been re-released for a new generation to enjoy.

This is the story of Elliot Merrick and his wife Kay, who spend the winter of 1928 in the wilderness with the trappers of Labrador. They lived on little more than skillet biscuits, tea, beans, dried peas and the few ptarmigan they could shoot. They walk and run alongside the trappers as they go from hut (called a tilt) to hut checking the trap lines, eventually covering hundreds of miles in sub zero weather. They pull their belts in three full notches over this period, and recount that they were never warm the entire time.

And yet they gloried in the beauty and wildness of the land they traversed. They had come from the Big City, and discovered a lifestyle that made them feel most alive. Merrick perhaps goes a little overboard in his vilification of city life and the 9 to 5 of industrialized society, but I have many of the same feelings and can understand how happy he would be to escape it.

I was charmed by his descriptions of the many types of snow, the danger and beauty of the iced up rivers, the breathtaking sunrises and sunsets, the musical squeaking of their snowshoes on the snow, and the pleasure they felt with the simple food they ate. Throughout the book I was thinking that I wouldn't have been able to survive under the same conditions. Kay impressed me most of all, being able to keep up with grown men under extreme circumstances, and never once complaining about the cold or lack of food. She kept them supplied with meat by learning to hunt rabbits and ptarmigan by snare and shotgun.

Merrick was a product of his time - he described the local Indians as thieves and savages, and

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talked about the butchering of fur animals for an industry that has all but died out. He might be un-PC by our standards, but I loved this glimpse into a lifestyle that no longer exists. He describes the trappers in words that show how much he respected them. Most of them were illiterate and lived their entire lives hand to mouth depending on how the trapping seasons went. But he saw the honor system by which they lived, loved their unique way of speaking, appreciated their deep affection for their families, and admired the freedom of the life they had chosen.

For anyone who enjoys reading about outdoor adventure and days gone by, I highly recommend it.

Gen: Engaging account of Labradorian trappers in the 1930s, but romantically idealistic and slightly preachy.

Eh?Eh!: i have never entire it yet I detect that if one does not kind whatever into the evaluation field then one does not often win one other first-read. until one is Chris Wilson, who defies all principles and common sense to win freakin' first-read after first-read (we hates him for that). i have been sitting in this one for a protracted time, studying it slowly. a few concepts to put here, in order that i will be able to perhaps have an opportunity at successful extra books again:- this dude lived out a early life dream i have had considering the fact that analyzing light Ben, leaving the entire towns and roads in the back of to stay up north- his view of the local peoples was once disturbing. it truly is just like the conflicted emotions society turns out to have typically approximately poverty, the place aww we should always aid them yet they are all criminals in order that they have to preserve away.- nature is so damned beautiful- no longer a lot approximately his wife- whereas i am jealous of his adventure, i am additionally a section annoyed that he did this. Like this dude: American Shaolin: One Man's Quest to develop into a Kung Fu Master.

Aletha Tavares: This publication I obtained from <http://www.herondance.org/>. the positioning and paintings that come through simply make my day at the net. The e-book is so fantastically written that it truly is poetry in prose. The panorama defined makes me shiver with chilly and that i can scent the crisp air and think the biting chilly as Merrick talks approximately his trip there. to renounce urban lifestyles isn't really really easy and pass and settle in outbacks of Labrador. I want i may get an opportunity during this lifestyles to go to it at least. A dream i shall nurture....

Linda Bentzen: attention-grabbing tale of leaving behind civilization and heading into the desert within the wintry weather in 1931. How this couple survived is amazing.

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