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One Man's Wilderness: An Alaskan Odyssey

Sam Keith

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Sam Keith : One Man's Wilderness: An Alaskan Odyssey before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised One Man's Wilderness: An Alaskan Odyssey:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I feel like I accomplished his feats right along with him and ...By J. M. More than any novel, any mystery, any adventure story, this book takes you to a place further away than you'll ever hope to be. The timelessness of this man's adventure in the Alaskan bush and the call that you hear while reading is quite a thing. You can't put this book down. Through every day that Dick spends on Upper Lake, and every seemingly mundane and homely task, you're right there with him. This book covers sixteen months worth of Dick's journals in selecting the location for his cabin, starting it and seeing it through to furnished completion. I feel like I accomplished his feats right along with him and I long to revisit my second home on Twin Lakes. 21 of 21 people found the following review helpful. fascinating, rugged individual meets Alaskan wilderness By just Rob Read how Richard Proenneke built his cabin by hand and thrived (mostly alone) in the bush. What This Book Is:- An important introduction to Richard Proenneke's story- Heavily edited (I would even say rewritten)- A pleasant, easy read (goes great with the 2-part documentary that airs on PBS)- Easy to get your hands on very quickly What This Book Is Not:- Richard Proenneke's authentic journals, in his OWN words- Proenneke's story told in his own voice I was captivated after watching the 2-part PBS documentary, "Alone in the Wilderness". So, I got hold of this book ("One Man's Wilderness"), as soon as possible. On reading, I was prepared to award a 5 stars. That is, until I read "The Early Years (The Journals of Richard L. Proenneke, 1967-1973)". Because then I realized how different "One's Man Wilderness" is

from Proenneke's own writings. We get a much better sense of who Proenneke was by reading his own words in "The Early Years". We get a broader picture over several years (558 pages), versus a little more than one year (224 pages). The downside with "The Early Years" is that it seems to be available only from Alaska Geographic. Sure, you won't get "The Early Years" with free Prime shipping. I received mine in about 10 days and it was well worth the wait. "One Man's Wilderness" was still intriguing after seeing the 2-part documentary on PBS. It's just that "The Early Years" is authentic and true to the man. Bottom Line:- I would rate this book ("One Man's Wilderness") 3.5 stars if I could- I would rate "The Early Years" 5 stars, hands down- I recommend this book as an easier, quicker read. Many folks are more comfortable with 200+ pages than 500+- I recommend "The Early Years" for a more authentic, deeper telling of the story- Proenneke's story is a classic Alaskan/American/man-vs-nature tale of independence and ingenuity. Don't miss it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great read By Tony I'm only halfway through, but it is an awesome book so far! If you appreciate learning how a man built his own cabin from scratch by cutting trees down and perfectly assembling a cabin, then this is for you. He does rely on getting food brought in, but does live off the land for the most part. I love the descriptions and content of the book very much! Very adventurous book.

This best-selling memoir from Richard Proenneke's journals and with firsthand knowledge of his subject and the setting, Sam Keith has woven a tribute to a man who carved his masterpiece out of the beyond. To live in a pristine land unchanged by man . . . to roam a wilderness through which few other humans has passed . . . to choose an idyllic site, cut trees by hand, and build a log cabin. . . to be self-sufficient craftsman, making what is needed from materials available...to be not at odds with the world, but content with one's own thoughts, dreams and company. Thousands have had such dreams, but Richard Proenneke lived them. This book is a moving account of the day-to-day explorations and activities Dick carried out alone....alone in the wilderness...and the constant chain of nature's events that kept him company.

From Library Journal This book made a big splash when it debuted in 1973. Keith based the text on the journals and photography of Richard Proenneke, who, after racking up years of 50-hour work weeks, did what many of us only fantasize about: he chucked it all and went to live in the woods. Now in his 80s, Proenneke still abides in the log cabin he built with his own hands and has become an icon for naturalists. Though few will follow Proenneke's lead, his story can be quite inspiring. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. "One Man's Wilderness is the best modern piece of prose about Alaska, the one that gives the truest picture of what living in the bush today is like for the lone individual." ---Anchorage Daily News