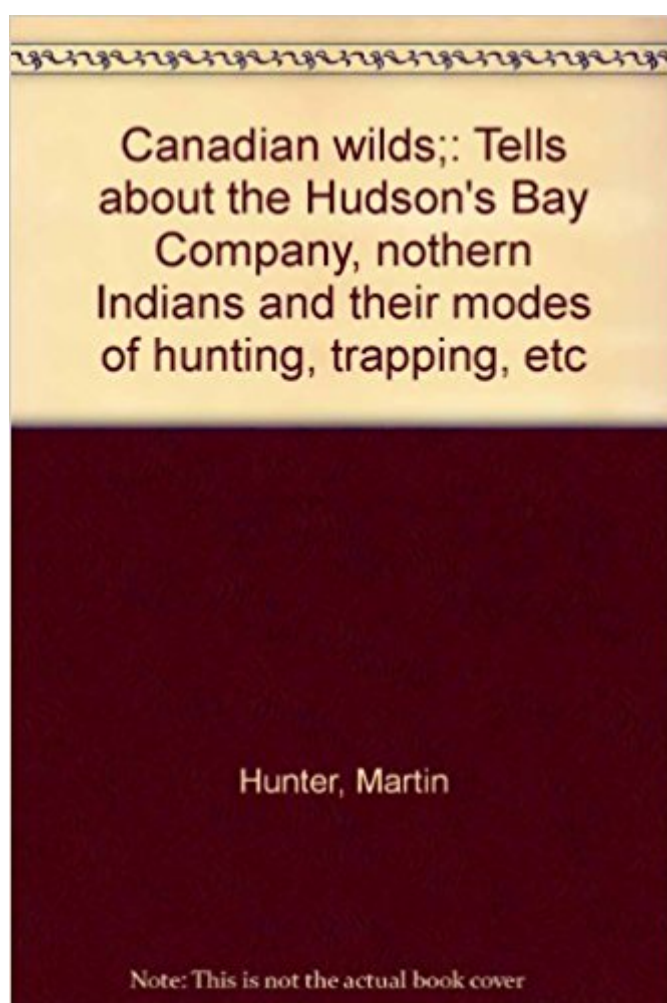


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# Canadian Wilds;: Tells About The Hudson's Bay Company, Nothern Indians And Their Modes Of Hunting, Trapping, Etc



## Synopsis

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## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Very informative, entertaining. Loved it!

Excellent book talks about the good old days

Ever a fan of all things about the frozen north, I constantly dig through old books looking for new information. In a used bookstore in Medford, Oregon, I found a tiny hardback jewel. CANADIAN WILDS, written by Martin Hunter around the turn of the twentieth century, is the chronicle of his life as a mountain man and his career with the original Hudson's Bay Company. He started as a clerk in 1853, after a period of fur trapping, and retired as a commissioned officer in 1903. Inside the faded red covers of this little book is a fascinating look at those hardscrabble times. Hunter describes his adventures as a trapper in a massive territory that extended from Labrador to Lake Superior and from the headwaters of the St. Lawrence River to its valley in the south. He traveled either by canoe

or snowshoe and cohabitated with Native Americans of the three largest tribes in the area. In his forward he assures his readers that they can "place implicit reliance on what is herein set forth." He includes details, to name a few, about wilderness provisioning, wholesome natural foods, hunting and trapping beaver, lynx, marten, foxes, otter and muskrat, dangers to avoid, caring for blistered or frozen feet, the art of pulling hearts, and wages for trappers that are utterly spellbinding. His language is straightforward and intriguing, an authentic voice of the time and place. He describes the toll that alcohol took on native hunters and their families, tragedies that prompted HBC to ban liquor in 1853. He calls the opening up of the country to outsiders as "a sorry day for the Indians." He writes about the stoniness and pluck needed to subsist on wild animals as food, recalling that the round bald head and thick, plump thighs of boiled owl created the startling image of a young infant. According to Hunter, one would have to be a "professional cannibal to tackle such an object." As he rose through the company ranks, he became a guardian of the natives he served. His disappointment in the treatment and decline of his wards created by commercialism is readily apparent in his writing. Hunter would be the true outdoorsman and mountain man to bring to your campfire for a thrilling evening. His book is the perfect substitute. Schuyler T Wallace Author of TIN LIZARD TALES

A decent account of the author's hunting and trapping up north, but nothing about the Innu or the old ways - just trapping and hunting tips. I was hoping for something like Nunaga.

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