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Nine Dog Winter



Synopsis

"Nine Dog Winter" by Bruce T. Batchelor is a true story, about two young Canadians who recruit nine mismatched huskies, and head out to live in a log cabin and go camping in the Yukon as the temperature plunges to Sixty-Eight Below. Follow this 1980-'81 winter adventure of a young couple intent on recreating the classic Yukon pioneer lifestyle. Includes hundreds of tips from natives and trappers. A prequel to Nine Dog Winter is available: "Dog Team to Dawson." Reviewer comments: "A real page turner and delightful read. An instant classic about Canada's North." "I LOVED reading it. Bruce has a rare gift among writers: he writes like he speaks. His 'voice' comes through as if you are sharing a hot cocoa by the fireside." "The book is bursting with love. People with each other. People with dogs. Dogs with people. Everybody with the outdoors." "A fascinating story and a great read. We recommend it highly."

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Customer Reviews

Bruce Batchelor was a friend from high school, some 30 years before when we reconnected over the internet and he sent me a copy of his 3rd book, "Nine Dog Winter," to read. I LOVED reading it.

Bruce has a rare gift among writers: he writes like he speaks. His "voice" comes through his literary voice as if he was sitting telling you these amusing incidents while you share a hot cocoa by the fireside of a winter evening. You can almost "hear" his voice rising in excitement at the dangers and pausing dramatically before revealing the outcome. Of course, he didn't die, or he wouldn't have been around to write the book, but he also survived having a Volkswagen slit his throat from ear-to-ear when he was still a teen, so you never know just how close to death he (or the other characters - real life characters) just might come at any moment. If you know Bruce, you are doubtless one of his thousands of "fans", and you should not miss this delightful "visit" with him and his lovely mistress, er, I mean, lover, well, ummm, bride! If you don't know Bruce Batchelor, it is all the more reason to take this chance to introduce him to you. This "math geek" from high school was and is full of surprises, not the least of which was his indomitable pioneering spirit to take on the frozen wilderness. (As some of your older folks may know, the musical group "Three Dog Night" got its name from an Aboriginal expression for a cold night in Australia, "Nine Dog Winter" is just that much colder and you couldn't get me to do it if I had 99 dogs!) Bruce is one of the smartest people I know. Why he would do a crazy thing like this I will never understand, but I sure am glad he wrote about the experience, because now I will never have to see snow again to know how cold it was.

"Nine Dog Winter" by Bruce Batchelor On the way to the grocery store I caught up with a man with a shaggy mutt on a leash. He nodded & I said, "Good morning" to him and "Hi Dog" to his multi,
 -Shepard/ - Something else. The man said, "His name is Rags." I said, "I just finished a book about him", pointing to Rags. "It was called "Nine Dog Winter", about a couple who went up to the Yukon, acquired 9 dogs that nobody else wanted bad enough to keep and just had a great time at 45 below zero, teaching them to be a team. They made all their own stuff, sleds, beds, harnesses, mittens, tools, heaters, boilers & freight toboggans " I told him about Batchelor's talent for bringing the Yukon River country between Whitehorse and Dawson City to life, my life: "The moon illuminated the river valley with blue light, making the scene glow with a romantic, gentle softness, the patches of snow and angled ice reflected the brilliance in an iridescent array of colour, the hues of the evergreens and the metallic sheen on the basalt cliffs, all of it a magical tableau." Adventure? That too, a murder, a dangerous river ice breakup, "Tyhee" and "Casey" get torn up by a Grizzly (they live). Plenty of excitement to keep you turning pages instead of putting the book down. In Chapter One there's plenty of reference to the man's Heater, who by Chapter 45 turns out to be accepted by the happy reader as the man's Love. The book is bursting with love. People with each other. People with dogs. Dogs with people. Everybody with the outdoors. And, you and me

with "Nine Dog Winter". Batchelor is a yarn-spinner and a poet, a Gentle Man who can dish it out and take it. I enjoyed, very much, being with him and his lovely, tough lady. And, of course, the other nine.
review by J. Gunn, Morro Bay, CA

Before high-horse power snowmobiles, people in arctic regions relied on dog power. "Nine Dog Winter" is the story of a young man and a young woman who, at the start of the eighties, decide to strike out into the Yukon in the old school way with a sled of dogs. Their adventures are a thrilling tale, sure to please readers and with much information on modern dog sledding. A blend of technical info, human interest story, and canine love, "Nine Dog Winter" is a solid recommendation for any True Adventure collection.

Nine Dog Winter: With more courage and energy than common sense, two young Canadians recruit nine rowdy sled dogs, and head out camping in the Yukon as temperatures plunge to Sixty Below and colder! Batchelor has done it again. A fascinating story and a great read. we recommend it highly. Ellen and Arnold Reisman

Enjoy the vicarious (thankfully) thrill of a motley crew of sled dogs and a romping real life adventure surviving (and thriving) in the frozen Yukon.

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