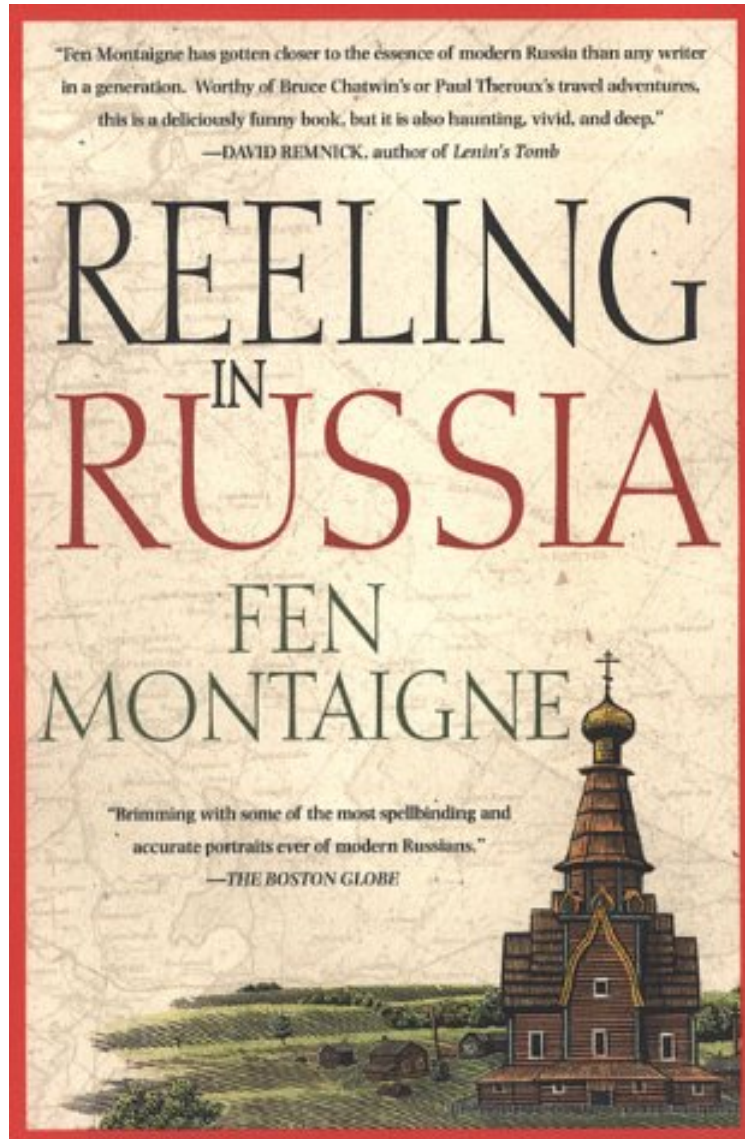


(Read free ebook) Reeling In Russia: An American Angler In Russia

Reeling In Russia: An American Angler In Russia

Fen Montaigne

audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#1066417 in Books Fen Montaigne 1999-04-15 1999-04-15Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 228.60 x .66 x 6.00l, .95 #File Name: 031220809X304 pagesISBN13: 9780312208097Condition: NewNotes: BRAND NEW FROM PUBLISHER! 100% Satisfaction Guarantee. Tracking provided on most orders. Buy with Confidence! Millions of books sold! | File size: 48.Mb

Fen Montaigne : Reeling In Russia: An American Angler In Russia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Reeling In Russia: An American Angler In Russia:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Dream killerBy N. R. GawlakThis is interesting reading. It is a bit off beat and is about a very personal experience, so it's slanted. But, even so, its a real eye opener for us US citizens

who've read the travelogues and ads about the "unspoiled" "spectacular" trout fishing to be had in wild Russia and dream about going there. When the author described his experiences fishing the Kola peninsula, it sounded a lot like trout fishing in the States including the criminal behavior of the local yahoos, the littering, pollution and all the rest. Hardly "unspoiled". Oh, yeah, and the rich buying up all the good water for their private benefit and forcing the rest of us onto overcrowded public waters which keep on diminishing. Sam old, same old. , If you want to keep your dreams and innocence, don't get this book, even if it is pretty good reading. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Gripping tales. Fen's adventure should be a movie with Liam Neeson By Christian Gripping tales. Fen's adventure should be a movie with Liam Neeson ... the stakes of extinction + pollution are higher: the wealthier plutocrats enjoying The Camps ... 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great fishing and travel book By Martein I love fishing and I also love travel books ... and good stories ... and this book has all three. It came recommended to me and I'd be happy to pay it forward

In the summer of 1996, award-winning journalist Fen Montaigne embarked on a hundred-day, seven-thousand-mile journey across Russia. Traveling with his fly rod, he began his trek in northwestern Russia on the Solovetsky Islands, a remote archipelago that was the birthplace of Stalin's gulag. He ended half a world away as he fished for steelhead trout on the Kamchatka Peninsula, on the shores of the Pacific. His tales of visiting these far-flung rivers are memorable, and at heart, *Reeling in Russia* is far more than a story of an angling journey. It is a humorous and moving account of his adventures in the madhouse that is Russia today, and a striking portrait that highlights the humanity and tribulations of its people. In the end, the reader is left with the memory of haunted northern landscapes, of vivid sunsets over distant rivers, of the crumbling remains of pre-Revolutionary estates, and a cast of dogged Russians struggling to build a life amid the rubble of the Communist regime.

.com "To some foreigners," writes American journalist Fen Montaigne, "Russia was anathema, a place grim beyond description. But to others, such as myself, Russia was an affliction, an incurable habit. From the very beginning, I was drawn to her dilapidated landscape, inhabited by people who knew hardship as intimately as we might a member of the family." After completing a stint as Moscow bureau chief for the *Philadelphia Inquirer* in 1996, Montaigne resolves to feed his habit in a somewhat unorthodox manner: a three-month fly-fishing expedition that will cross 10 time zones from west to east and cover 7,000 miles. Traveling with a duffel bag bulging with state-of-the-art fishing gear is probably not the best way to journey through a largely impoverished land without arousing suspicion, but the neophyte fly-fisher is romanced by the vastness and anonymity of the place and simply cannot resist. Unknown rivers and lakes, after all, are the stuff of anglers' dreams, and so Montaigne blithely sets out with dancing trout and salmon in his head. All too soon, however, he is disabused of such gumdrop notions. Environmental degradation, bureaucratic hoops, unscrupulous "entrepreneurs," and a parade of vodka parties greet him at nearly every stop. Montaigne's initial quest is swiftly superseded by a series of picaresque misadventures--some comic, others frightening--that serve to educate the innocent abroad as well as the reader. He tours centuries-old monasteries on the Solovetski archipelago that Stalin once turned into gulags, stumbles across a shallow grave near the Kolyma slave mines, narrowly escapes a pair of buxom highway robbers on the Trans-Siberian Railway, and breaks bread with fish-poaching apparatchiks on the Detrin River. Revealed along the way is a country in utter turmoil, trying to escape from its past without a destination in mind, almost childlike in its simplicity. Some of these East-meets-West scenes are strangely poignant in their squalor. At one vodka-soaked stop, the author obligingly gets drunk with the locals and caps the night by driving a brakeless Ural truck through town, much to the hoots and delight of his hosts: "'Second! Second!' the boys hollered as the engine whined, and I jammed the heavy stick into second gear. We hit a straightaway. I shifted into third and cranked the Ural up to about 25 miles an hour. Ashes from their cigarettes flitted about the cabin. I glanced over at the boys and saw that great, demented smiles had spread on their faces." Eventually Montaigne overcomes his ineptitude with a flyrod and manages to hook into some nice fish, but his triumph hardly matters; the real catch of the day is the distillation of a moment in time, when a people and their nation drift helplessly in the current. --Langdon Cook From *Publishers Weekly* In a book that is part fly-fishing adventure and part social commentary on rural Russian life, Montaigne (former Moscow bureau chief for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*) casts his flies in Russia's great rivers and expertly and beautifully hooks the essence of Russia's "dilapidated landscape, inhabited by people who knew hardship as intimately as we might a member of the family." Montaigne fishes for cod and herring off the Solovetsky Islands in the Barents Sea, and for salmon on the Kola Peninsula where he first meets Russia's new and often unethical businessman trying to make a money off Western sportsmen. He embarks eastward on the trans-Siberian railroad, where he is accosted by one of the railway's ubiquitous stern women train attendants and almost drugged by three women thieves. His first stop is on the Volga River for Russia's famous sturgeon, pike and perch. He then travels to Lake Baikal and Kamchatka, where he encounters many more people, rendering their tales in an evenhanded manner that often captures the poor quality of Russian life. As far as his fishing is concerned, he catches some, loses a few and often doesn't get so much as a bite in Russia's polluted, over-fished waters. And when he does land the big one, he resigns himself to giving it to his hungry Russian guides. In Russia, fishing is not a sport but a way of life, and he is

often ridiculed for using such an ineffective method of catching something so precious. Montaigne's enlightened travelogue will appeal not only to fly-fishing enthusiasts but to anyone wanting to know more about Russia and what makes it reel and spin. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal This reviewer must come clean immediately and acknowledge that she knows next to nothing about flyfishing, notwithstanding her having a son who spends most weekends up to his hips in icy New York streams, rod in hand. She does, however, have an enduring interest in things Russian and consequently landed this interesting assignment. Aksakov was a great autobiographical writer of 19th-century Russia, but his first success was with a "sporting trilogy" to which this book belongs. A classic of both Russian and sport literature, known to most enthusiasts, including Montaigne, it was completed in 1846 and expresses Aksakov's passion not only for the sport but for nature in general. After vignette-like discussions of various equipment, the book breaks out into charming discussions of various fish from minnows to burbot that will interest naturalists as well as historically minded flyfishers. Two appendixes include Aksakov's fishing prose and poetry. This won't fit into every popular sports collection, but the prose is perfectly accessible and the book entertaining beyond its obvious historical interest. Montaigne, a former Moscow bureau chief for the Philadelphia Inquirer, has written a book that is less a guide to flyfishing in Russia than a political travelog with his fishing trips as the, ahem, hook. Montaigne determined to flyfish his way across Russia, said to contain in its far reaches some beautiful streams still teeming with fish, but what he encountered repeatedly was bad news for both fish and humans: a countryside despoiled by exploitation and a people so desperate after the fall of communism took away what security they had that many survive by wholesale poaching. Despite some fascinating characters, this is a pretty downbeat trip, which Montaigne himself rarely seemed to enjoy. Probably only readers deeply interested in contemporary Russia will want to go along with him. [Montaigne's book was previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 2/15/98.] A Barbara Hoffert, "Library Journal." A Barbara Hoffert, "Library Journal" Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.