



Alaska: A Novel

By James A. Michener

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In this sweeping epic of the northernmost American frontier, James A. Michener guides us through Alaska's fierce terrain and history, from the long-forgotten past to the bustling present. As his characters struggle for survival, Michener weaves together the exciting high points of Alaska's story: its brutal origins; the American acquisition; the gold rush; the tremendous growth and exploitation of the salmon industry; the arduous construction of the Alcan Highway, undertaken to defend the territory during World War II. A spellbinding portrait of a human community fighting to establish its place in the world, *Alaska* traces a bold and majestic saga of the enduring spirit of a land and its people.

Praise for *Alaska*

“Few will escape the allure of the land and people [Michener] describes. . . . *Alaska* takes the reader on a journey through one of the bleakest, richest, most foreboding, and highly inviting territories in our Republic, if not the world. . . . The characters that Michener creates are bigger than life.”—*Los Angeles Times Book Review*

“Always the master of exhaustive historical research, Michener tracks the settling of Alaska [in] vividly detailed scenes and well-developed characters.”—*Boston Herald*

“Michener is still, sentence for sentence, writing’s fastest attention grabber.”—*The New York Times*

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Alaska: A Novel By James A. Michener Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #22186 in Books
- Brand: Dial Press
- Published on: 2002-11-12
- Released on: 2002-11-12
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.22" h x 1.56" w x 5.48" l,
- Binding: Paperback
- 1152 pages

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Another told-from-the-beginning-of-time Michener saga, this one featuring Alaska. The book begins a billion years ago. Its first characters are the mastodon and the woolly mammoth, followed by such other settlers as the Eskimos, Athapaskans, and Russians. Vignettes of characters as varied as the Danish navigator Vitus Bering, who explored Alaska for Russia's Peter the Great, and Kendra Scott, the young Colorado teacher who taught the Eskimo children during the recent Prudhoe Bay oil boom, illustrate the colorful history of this vast and exploited land. Early on the book is vintage Michener, but the momentum encounters an Arctic chill midway. Final sections are trite, uneven, and overloaded with stereotypes. Too cumbersome to be called fiction, but Michener fans will demand it anyway. Joan Hinkemeyer, Englewood P.L., Col.

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Review

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From the Inside Flap

In this sweeping epic of the northernmost American frontier, James A. Michener guides us across Alaska's fierce terrain, from the long-forgotten past to the bustling technological present, as his characters struggle for survival. The exciting high points of Alaska's story, from its brutal prehistory, through the nineteenth century and the American acquisition, to its modern status as America's thriving forty-ninth state, are brought vividly to life in this remarkable novel: the gold rush; the tremendous growth and exploitation of the salmon industry; the discovery of oil and its social and economic consequences; the difficult construction of the Alcan Highway, which made possible the defense of the territory in World War II. A spellbinding portrait of a human community struggling to establish its place in the world, Alaska traces a bold and majestic history of the enduring spirit of a land and its people.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Gena Colgan:

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Mark Guerrero:

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