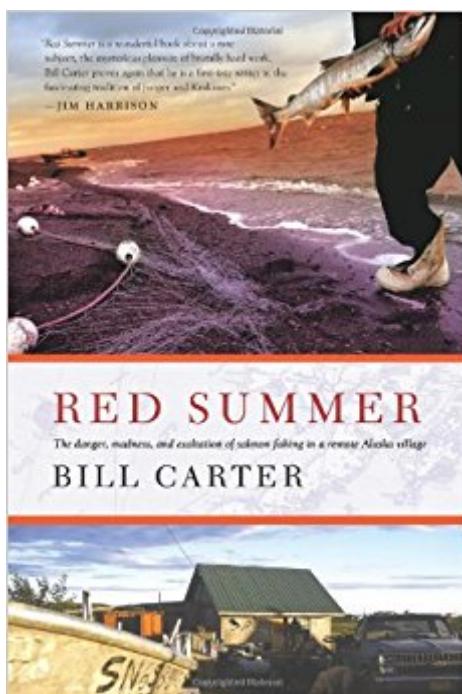


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Red Summer: The Danger, Madness, And Exaltation Of Salmon Fishing In A Remote Alaskan Village



Synopsis

Painting a visceral portrait of the life of commercial fishermen in the remote Eskimo village of Egegik, Alaska, this intense memoir depicts the author's four summers spent with a crew of seasonal salmon netters. Distinguishing itself from a typical adventure, this recollection relates the unforgiving supervision of the experienced female crew-chief, who along with her rugged shipmates lives by the credo: do the work or leave. From an encounter with an overly-inquisitive grizzly bear and being swamped by a mother-ship in open waters to the customary run-ins with colorful locals, this record is certain to appeal to adventurers, nature lovers, and armchair travelers alike. In the tradition of Jon Krakauer, Peter Matthiessen, and Sebastien Junger, this is an honest and vivid story of what it means to leave so-called civilization behind for a life full of danger, excitement, untold beauty, and physically grueling work. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"...An honest, refreshingly understated look at a profession that's known for, well, exaggeration"--*Outside Magazine*"Red Summer" is about life at the extreme edge of the food chain, and nowhere is the food chain more violent, more awesome or more intense than in Egegik."--*New York Times* Book Review --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Set in the tiny Native village of Egegik on the shores of Alaska's Bristol Bay, Bill Carter's *Red Summer* is the thrilling story of one man's journey from novice to seasoned fisherman over the

course of four beautiful, brutal summers in one of the earth's few remaining wild places. As millions of salmon race toward their annual spawning grounds, Carter learns the ancient, back-breaking trade of the set net fisherman, one of the most exhilarating and dangerous jobs in the world. Housed in a dilapidated shack with no hot water and boarded-up windows that keep the bears at bay, Carter spends his days battling the elements on the river and his nights drinking whiskey with a memorable group of hardworking, hard-living characters. There's Sharon, the tough, charismatic woman who runs Carter's fishing crew; Carl, her stoic but warmhearted colleague; and a half-dozen local fishermen, many born and raised in this unforgiving place. Their stories-harrowing, touching, full of humor-all underscore the credo of the village's fishermen: Do the work of leave. Carter's crew is imperiled a number of times as tides rise, nets are snagged, and the weight of too many fish threatens to sink their boat. Written with gusto and honesty, *Red Summer* brims with astonishing human experience and joins the grand tradition of books written by great American outdoorsmen-writers such as Ernest Hemingway, Edward Abbey, Peter Matthiessen, and Sebastian Junger. *Red Summer* will appeal not only to fishermen, naturalists, adventurers, and arm-chair anthropologists alike but also to anyone who has ever yearned, however privately, to escape the bonds of modern civilization.

--This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Our son-in-law was returning from a two-week commercial salmon fishing trip and found the paperback version of this book in the airport in Seattle. He purchased it and told us that if we wanted to know what his experience was like this author nailed it. We purchased it for kindle so that we could all "live" the adventure. I was pretty sure before, but I now know absolutely that this is not a Summer Workation for me. However, I would still love to take an Alaskan Summer Cruise! As for the writing itself, just check out the author's credentials ... it's easy to tell that he has the skill set to create an engaging (and gripping) read.

I'd like to witness to the accuracy of Carter's portrayal of Egegik summers and the fishing men (and some hardy women) do there. I worked eight summers in Egegik (1994-2001), starting in the cannery, set-netting for two summers and drift fishing for four. I lived and worked with two long time Egegik families (one not so much a family, but a clan). Carter has squarely captured the joy, exhaustion, laughter, anger, dissipation, recklessness, heroism, bawdiness, and adventure of Egegik summers. Everything he writes in his book is true and he does not exagerate (hard as that may seem!). The people he writes about (many I also knew) are just as lost, wild, mean, strong, and gripping as he portrays them. Carter's book isn't the last word about Egegik summers (there are

many many books that could be written about the drift fishing, the cannery workers, the fish and game officers, and more), but it'd dead on accurate for the territory it covers. His book shows why so many of us went back summer after summer and still dream of doing so now that we've moved on to the rest of our lives.

I read Bill's book, "Red Summer" and did not put it down until I finished it. I have first-hand knowledge as to how I know Bill brought the characters and way of living to life; not because I was there but because Sharon, the main "character" is my cousin. He captured my cousins' (David and Ron as well) personalities and lives just as I have known them to be. I knew my cousin Sharon chose a hard life after she and I graduated from high school (I went to college and she went fishing; this was 1979 and she has done so to this day) but I never knew just how hard that life was for her, and I never, ever heard a complaint about it. Bill wrote of his life with Sharon as his captain, and with the folks of Egegik, in such a way that you feel as though you are right there with them all. He brings you in from the first page and you feel saddened at the end because you want to read more! Thanks Bill for writing of your experiences so descriptively that I felt I had spent wonderful, miserable, exciting, tiring, and rewarding summers with my cousin.- Barb

Wow. It was so strange to come across this book. I worked on the Beach Gang up there for 4 seasons (1980 through 1983). I would never have dreamed that a book would be written about this tiny remote fishing village where I worked 30 years ago. It was a real treat to read. I had met the people behind the names, visited the places, and experienced the situations. The book took me back to all of the incredible experiences I had. I remember Ken Hunter. He used to come down to the docks and threaten us. Definitely someone to steer clear of. In many ways it sounds like little has changed up there, although the book made me aware of new threats to the area from mining interests. It is good that information is being brought to light. All in all, this book was a lot of fun. Very enjoyable. Thanks Bill.

Just finished this book. I found it to be a interesting narrative of an outsiders view of the alaskan fishing industry. I have friends who have worked up there in the past and i was always been intrigued with what it must be like. The author does a good job of explaining the work and the living conditions. If you looking for a light, easy read, this was an good book.

Thank you

I spent three summers (97, 98, 99) out on the flats (ISA) and at Coffee Point as a fish buyer. I'll never forget my time in the Egegik fishing district. It's one of those places that you can't wait to leave but you miss it when you're gone. Great people, great families, lots of characters, and an experience of a lifetime. Bill Carter did a nice job of bringing me back to that place, and many of his experiences and thoughts paralleled my own and those I was with.

great book

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