



Northern Tales: Stories from the Native Peoples of the Arctic and Sub-Arctic Regions

Howard Norman (Editor)

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From Greenland to Siberia, from Alaska to Japan, from Canada to North Pole, here are more than one hundred folktales from more than thirty tribal peoples who make their home in the arctic and subarctic regions. By turns tragic and comic, fantastic and earthy, uncanny and profound, these tales transport us to the haunting, little known world of the far North, capturing its fragile majesty and power, enlightening us about the sacredness of life and the unique relationship between man and nature in this most remote part of our world. Included here are stories about village life, about shamans and tricksters, and about all kinds of extraordinary animals. They reflect a rich diversity of traditions and cultures, spanning the centuries from the prehistoric "Way-Back Time" through the coming of the first white explorers.

Northern Tales: Stories from the Native Peoples of the Arctic and Sub-Arctic Regions Details

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From Reader Review Northern Tales: Stories from the Native Peoples of the Arctic and Sub-Arctic Regions for online ebook

Lizz says

Great tales, but storytellers are often difficult to follow, understand.

See my other ten word book reviews at my blog: <https://tenwordbookreviews.wordpress.com>....

Chris says

This is a rather varied collection of Inuit and other Northern people folk tales (though, there doesn't seem to be any Lapp tales). The tales are varied in style, which means the reader's reaction to the tales is going to vary. Many of the tales are sexual, and sometimes you wonder things like, "Why is it important that she is naked" or "how come the women are naked but not the men". But they are still good fun.

The tales are more different in tone than say European folktales and the fairy tales that are commonly read to children. It makes one wonder why. Why are the Northern tales more sexual, more blunt about it. Is it the weather? One wonders.

And I actually think this is one of the few folktale collections I've read that doesn't have a Cinderella variant in it.

First Second Books says

This is a collection of stories from native people who live in the far north – the blend of what I think of as traditional US stories and Russian folktales is fascinating!

Adam says

This collection has its highs and lows like any other, and there are plenty of kind of boring or inscrutable stories. In general, though, it very much reflects the singular frank, often brutal, mythological storytelling I was hoping for. The weird genital magic and horrific monsters teased in those very short stories in the Angela Carter collection is very much present and a lot of fun. What I found surprising and perhaps even more compelling, was the storytelling style and world building tone at work (to the extent that I even worried that Norman had "ghostwritten" these to obtain a consistent style; this definitely is not the case, the stories are presented very literally as they were transcribed, even up to and including some gestures and a few very awkward translations).

Compared to the fairytales and myths I've been reading, both Eurasian in that Angela Carter collection and Native American, these stories feel a notch or two closer to contemporary horror stories. They feel a little bit less formal, a little more psychological. They still have the fairytale magic, where a random person tells the

protagonists to do something very particular but seemingly minor, and then their problem is solved. But while some of them have a happy ending, they don't feel as cliché. Part of it is that characters are slightly more motivated and distinct, but this is definitely not true of plenty of the stories. Another element might be that few of these stories feel like variants of each other (there is a Baba Yaga variant but I don't think I recognized any of the rest of them). I don't know if that indicates they are genuinely more unique or even record actual events, or if that is just an artifact of the curation. Anyway, there are a few of these that honestly could be the plot for a great contemporary horror movie, especially the ones that deal with shamans.

S says

selected, edited & retold by Howard Norman (The Bird Artist)

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another set of mildly disturbing adult tales, reminiscent of Barbecued
