



The White Dawn: An Eskimo Saga

James Houston

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

The White Dawn: An Eskimo Saga

James Houston

The White Dawn: An Eskimo Saga James Houston

In 1896, three survivors from a whaling misadventure are nursed back to health by Eskimo villagers who share their food, women, and way of life with the strangers. In return, the foreigners introduce to the villagers the spirit of competitiveness that rules the white man's world. Map and drawings by the Author.

The White Dawn: An Eskimo Saga Details

Date : Published April 20th 1989 by Mariner Books (first published 1971)

ISBN : 9780156962568

Author : James Houston

Format : Paperback 288 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Adventure, Cultural, Canada

 [Download The White Dawn: An Eskimo Saga ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The White Dawn: An Eskimo Saga ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The White Dawn: An Eskimo Saga James Houston

From Reader Review The White Dawn: An Eskimo Saga for online ebook

Patrice Clifford says

I'd really like to give this book 3.75 stars, if that were possible. The story is a bit slow, which is why I rate it less than four stars. However, it is packed with fascinating insights into the Eskimo culture along West Baffin Island in the late 1800s. I liked the story, and would definitely recommend it to any readers who enjoy learning about the life, traditions and perspectives of other cultures.

Chris says

Have you ever seen Inuit art? I'm not talking about the cheap tourist stuff, you know the white bears with green fish in thier mouthes (not there is anything wrong with that. I like polar bears). I mean the expensive art.

I love Inuit art. I have loved it since I first saw it. The first real piece of art I ever brought was, you guessed it, Inuit art. There is something about it that tells a story. Even my Inukshuk (the stone piles) tells a story, and its not just the craving, its the stone itself that tells a story. Primal is the wrong word. Its deep, its life, its perfection. You may not know what the story is, but you know that is a story.

This book was written by James Archibald Houston who is in part responsible for bringing westerns (non-Inuit) to Inuit art. In truth, it starts a little slow, but like the art work, it becomes engrossing and consuming. You know how it is going to end, you have to, yet you hope, you wonder, and you admire the story told in such a loving way. A story that looks at first simplstic but becomes much deeper.

Like Inuit art.

Al says

Canadian author and artist James Houston lived among the Inuit in northern Canada for a dozen years, and is perhaps best known as the individual who brought Inuit art and sculpture to commercial success. He published a number of books, both for adults and children, of which White Dawn was his most successful. Calling on his intimate knowledge of Inuit culture, Houston wrote a fictionalized version of what he says are true events: the crew of a small whaleboat in 1896 in Baffin Bay is towed beyond the possibility of return to the mother ship; three survivors, nearly dead, are found by an Inuit group, restored to health, and generously accepted into the community. The magic of the book is in Houston's exquisite rendering of the Inuit culture, its day to life, and the simplicity and happiness of their life style, all set against the harsh and beautiful climate in which they live. The recounting of cross-cultural difficulties and their ultimate resolution is handled with sensitivity and fairness. Highly recommended.

Scilla says

One of the small boats off a whaling ship disappears with 6 men north of Hudson Bay in 1897. The story has been passed down by the Eskimos through the generations; most of the story is based on a story heard by the author while living in the Canadian Arctic. Three of the missing men were discovered by a group of Eskimos, brought to their igloos and given food and shelter. One of the men learned some of the Eskimo speech, but they all seemed very strange to the natives. The descriptions of how the Eskimos lived are wonderful. The whalers lived with the family group together for about a year, but finally the culture clash was too much.

Elli says

This was narrated by a person who lived with the Indians in the frozen north for 12 years and was intimately familiar with their customs and ways of life. Three strangers appeared one day and just stayed. At first they were welcome, then they became a drain. There was no fitting in. The language was beautiful, and the confusion of the people seemed very real. This was in the early 1800's when three people disappeared when they left the ship, and next visit, shipmates decided to check and see what they could find. An epic narrative very worth reading. Besides the Inuit customs, the confusion of mixing different unknown cultures is brought to the forefront.

Denise says

I love anthropology, and this book was a window into the frozen north and the amazing, resourceful people who lived there around the turn of the century. It was based on a true story related to the author during the twelve years he lived in the Canadian Arctic on a quest for "Eskimo" art. The narrator is a member of the Inuit tribe that saved and cared for three crew survivors from a whaling ship in 1896. Descriptions of hunting, snowhouse building, dancing, singing and native beliefs are detailed and humorous. The clash of cultures results in some comic, but ultimately tragic outcomes. I'm sure this book isn't for everyone, but I enjoyed it thoroughly and learned so much. I was left with the feeling that we have so much to learn about manners, cooperation and brotherhood.

Linda says

A heart-breaking story about the clash of two civilizations, and what arrogance and selfishness can create. It's also full of fascinating information about the old-time Eskimos.

Maci says

The White Dawn by James Houston is a novel I read for my history of the twentieth century world class. This book is about an Inuit community and what happens when three whalers get lost and an Inuit community takes them in. This book is told from the perspective of one of the Inuit, which makes the whalers the foreigners, which is a different take than most books give. This book is a slow read but really

gives insight into Inuit way of life. I wouldn't really recommend this book unless you are interested in learning about Inuit life.

Margaret1358 Joyce says

At some point during the 12 years Jame Houston spent on North West Territory's Baffin Island, during which he was the first civil administrator of West Baffin Island and, as such, dogsledded around, absorbing Inuit lore and culture, he heard the tale of the 3 white-skinned whalers who, in 1896, stranded and nearly dead from cold and starvation, had been found by the Inuit and nurtured back to health. This is Houston's narration of that story, in the 1st person voice of Avinga, a young Inuit man who, crippled from a dogsled accident and thus sidelined from the usual male hunting and fishing activities, has become an acute observer of everything happening in the self-contained Inuit community after the arrival of the 3 strangers. A profound story of life and death in the far north as lived by people in perfect balance with the laws of nature, it instructs the attentive listener on a host of levels. So very glad I came across it!!!

Lacey says

This book was a story based off of some true events. I thought it was pretty good. Sailors get stranded and learn to live among the eskimos.

Harriett Milnes says

The author lived in the Inuit territory of Canada for twelve years and heard this tale of 3 whalers who were rescued by the Inuit and lived with them for a year. Very good.

Brittney says

I could not fathom what life would be to live in such a place, so cold and desolate. Using my instinct and the knowledge passed down by generations as my only map of survival. This book was an eye opener and divulging in itself regarding the polarity in lifestyle, traditions and taboos shared among these amazingly resourceful natives and foreigners from a far away land. Reading this book demands one to question the position of our own so called communities and culture. Sometimes, I think I would much rather live among the Inuit people, eating raw meat.

Stephanie says

Exciting beginning and emotional ending. Very slow in the middle. Almost lost interest but the last few chapters made me glad I stuck with it. 3 1/2 stars.

Heather Edwards says

My book club read this book because it was referenced in another book club read, The Enchanted. We thought it would be interesting to see why one of the characters loved it so much.

I loved it. Three whalers are found by hunters from an Eskimo village. The book covers the year that these three live with the villagers. I liked the insight to what it was like to live in a remote northern nomadic village and live off the land... or the sea. The story is told by Avinga, the half son, half cripple, half slave to the household of the head of the village.

This story is based on true events.

Magdelanye says

For someone unused to snow, this book amazed me with it's detail. My admiration for the ingenuity, resilience and wisdom of the Inuit is boundless. Faced with the challenge of survival in such an extreme environment, they are tuned in to it in an often precarious balance.

That balance is tipped when the village rescues three whalers separated from their boat. This story is based on a true account from around the turn of the 18th Century. JH spent 12 years in the North and was familiar with the landscape and customs of the people, living amongst them. Writing from the point of view of the lonely and inquisitive Avinga, he gives us an eloquent account of the events that ended up fracturing his world.
