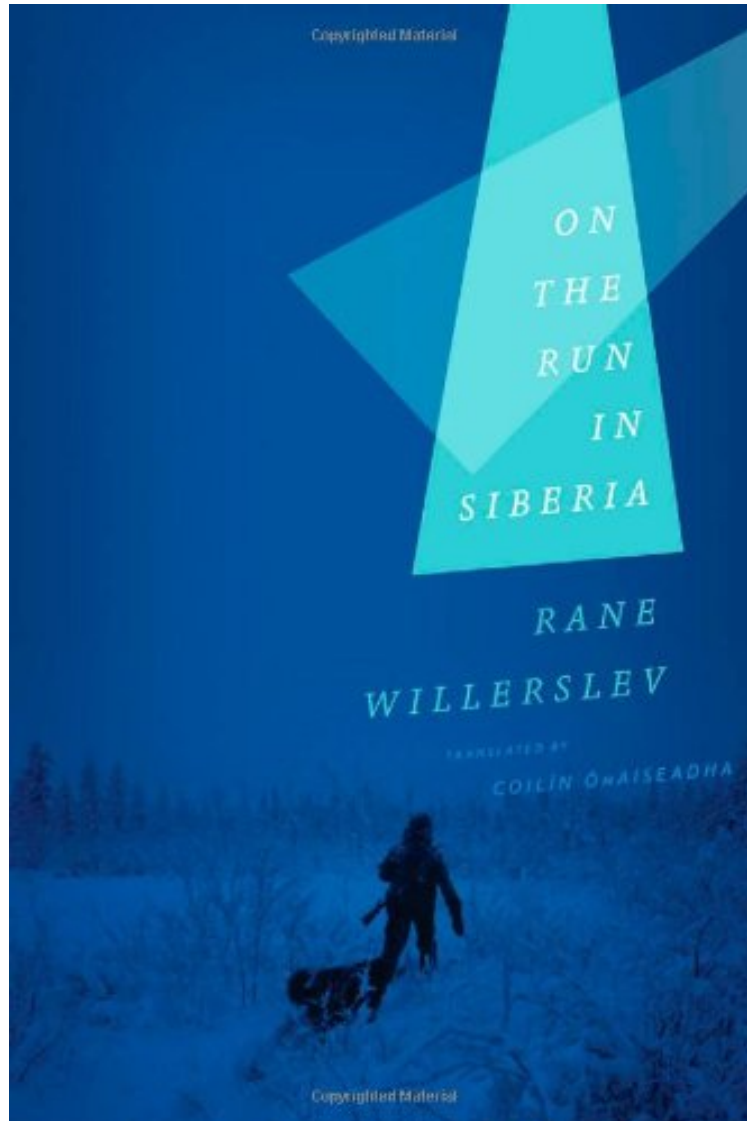


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On the Run in Siberia

Rane Willerslev

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#1198334 in Books Univ Of Minnesota Press 2012-04-24Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.25 x .70 x 5.50l, .72 #File Name: 0816676275216 pages | File size: 40.Mb

Rane Willerslev : On the Run in Siberia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised On the Run in Siberia:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great purchase. Basically new.By cristosThis book was not just "like new;" it was new, never opened. Great purchase.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy JohnGood read0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. bear-manBy dr evilGreat stuff, love the mixture of deep ethnographic knowledge, history and theory about mankind and thrilling adventure. Must read type of book!

If I had let myself be ruled by reason alone, I would surely be lying dead somewhere or another in the Siberian frost. The Siberian taiga: a massive forest region of roughly 4.5 million square miles, stretching from the Ural Mountains to the Bering Sea, breathtakingly beautiful and the coldest inhabited region in the world. Winter temperatures plummet to a bitter 97 degrees below zero, and beneath the permafrost lie the fossilized remains of mammoths, woolly rhinoceroses, and other ice age giants. For the Yukaghir, an indigenous people of the taiga, hunting sable is both an economic necessity and a spiritual experience—where trusting dreams and omens is as necessary as following animal tracks. Since the fall of Communism, a corrupt regional corporation has monopolized the fur trade, forcing the Yukaghir hunters into impoverished servitude. Enter Rane Willerslev, a young Danish anthropologist who ventures into this frozen land on an idealistic mission to organize a fair-trade fur cooperative with the hunters. From the outset, things go terribly wrong. The regional fur company, with ties to corrupt public officials, proves it will stop at nothing to maintain its monopoly: one of Willerslev's Yukaghir business partners is arrested on spurious charges of poaching and illegal trading; another drowns mysteriously. When police are sent to arrest him, Willerslev fears for his life, and he and a local hunter flee to a remote hunting lodge even deeper in the icy wilderness. Their situation turns even more desperate right away: they manage to kill a moose but lose the meat to predators and begin to starve, frostbitten and isolated in the frozen taiga. Thus begins Willerslev's extraordinary, chilling tale of one year living in exile among Yukaghir hunters in the stark Siberian taiga region. At turns shocking and quietly moving, *On the Run in Siberia* is a pulse-pounding tale of idealism, political corruption, starvation, and survival (with a timely assist from Vladimir Putin) as well as a striking portrait of the Yukaghirs' shamanistic tradition and their threatened way of life, a drama unfolding daily in one of the world's coldest, most enthralling landscapes.

From Booklist*Starred * Danish anthropologist Willerslev, author of the ethnographic study *Soul Hunters* (2007), has written a vivid personal account of his harrowing experiences with the Yukaghir fur hunters in Siberia. He sought to assist the hunters in bypassing the endemic corruption of post-Soviet society and selling their furs via a fair-trade fur cooperative. His idealism was sorely challenged by a host of social and cultural differences that, combined with the severe climate and nonexistent transportation infrastructure, left him demoralized. Things then took a deadly turn when greedy regional officials issued an arrest warrant in his name. In thrilling prose, Willerslev recounts his dogsled escape with a friend into the desolate taiga, and their subsequent near starvation takes the book in a whole new direction. As gripping as these chapters are, they still pale in comparison to the author's clear-eyed view of the Siberian economy. The Yukaghirs are a subjugated people, and without galvanizing social change, Willerslev concludes, they cannot achieve personal success. "Whether an autocratic czar, a Communist dictator, or a democratically elected president, they will always fear him." Whether Willerslev's chronicle is selected for its political insights or as a stunning survival story, it will leave readers breathless. --Colleen Mondor "Driven by a courageous humanitarian vision and a thirst for scientific knowledge, Rane Willerslev endures starvation, bears, arrest warrants, and the curse of an angry lover. This beautifully written account of hardship, determination, and discovery is a testament to the author's honesty and humanity, and gives a fascinating insight into the work of a leading anthropologist." —Piers Vitebsky, author of *The Reindeer People: Living with Animals and Spirits in Siberia*