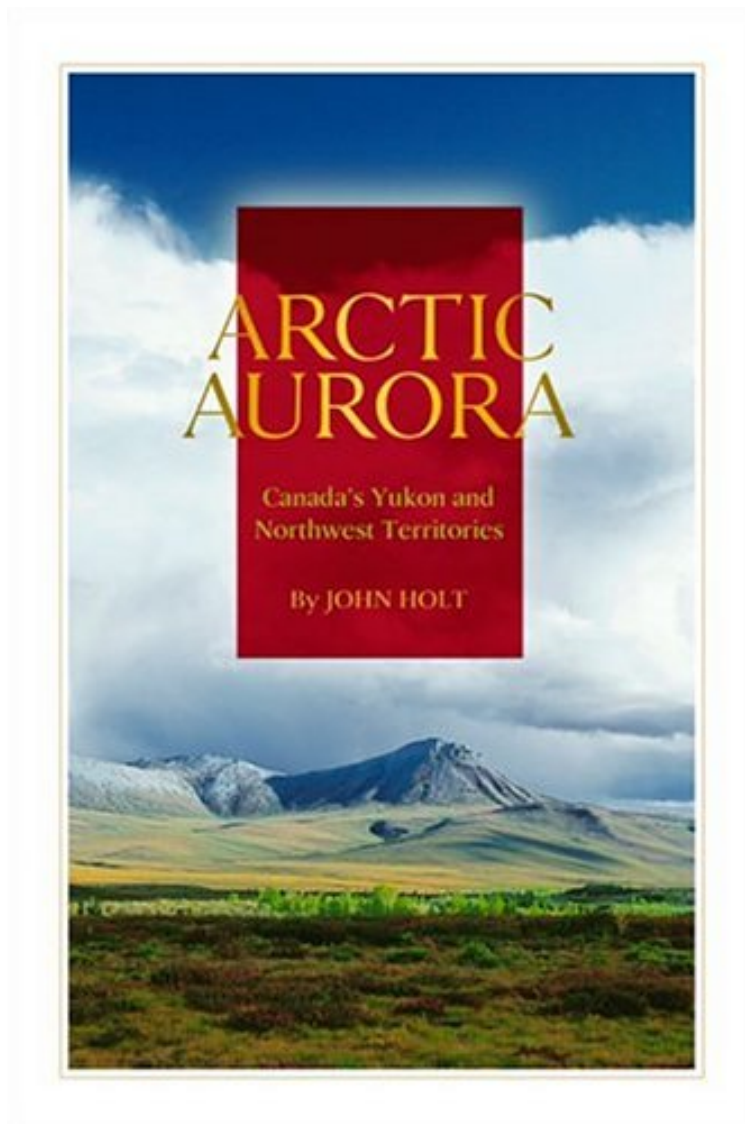


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## Arctic Aurora

*John Holt*

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#File Name: 0892725575256 pages | File size: 43.Mb

**John Holt : Arctic Aurora** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Arctic Aurora:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyable read about a fascinating regionBy AlexOMost of the reviews here seem to either worship this book or hate it. I enjoyed it, though probably not as much as the "worshippers". I chose the book because I'm interested in the Canadian far North, and the author does a fine job bringing a huge, blank region of the map to life, with interesting tales of camping, landscape, environment, people,

development, and bits of natural history. Oh and fishing. (A LOT about fishing...)I have 3 fairly minor criticisms of the book, none of which are huge nor change my recommendation to read it. The first is that the story flirts with themes of personal history, disappointment and related recovery as the author travels the region, but we never have enough info or insight about the author's history to really make any kind of emotional connection to these themes. The second is that the second-to-last chapter, which details the environmental threats to the far North, feels forced, sort of like a couple hundred pages of the wonder of the region, followed by a compressed polemic of "oh yeah, it's really in trouble..." The chapter is indeed full of compelling and concerning info, but would have worked better if the themes of environmental threat and exploitation had been somehow woven into, or better linked with, the other chapters/essays. Lastly is a minor stylistic criticism: the frequent use of "Author's Notes", especially later in the book. In a book with a style as casual and familiar as this (a good thing) the "aside" nature of these notes really isn't necessary.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Journey into Forever and BeyondBy Thomas G. TiptonArtic Aurora, Holt's latest and greatest literary work, guides us through Canada's Northwest Territories and the Yukon. For certain he describes where to find good food, good fishing and interesting places to visit, but this is no travelogue of where to go, what to do or how to catch fish. Instead, as he journeys through this wild, untamed and unfenced area of immense size in his 1983 Suburban, he discovers raw visceral power flows through the land in the Far North. A place where one can gaze out over the beautiful, intrepid landscape and see forever and beyond. Overhead, the aurora borealis dances and flickers with palpable energy. Immense rivers surge over countless waterfalls as they carve and gouge their way towards the ocean. An unseen power sizzles through the land.As Holt relates his many wanderings across the Far North he writes with a clarity and detail that create rich, mesmerizing visions that roll through the mind. The book is chock full of interesting details about the land, the people and their history. Several amusing anecdotes and stories had me laughing out loud.As in his book Coyote Nowhere, a precursor to Artic Aurora, Holt reflects on his life and also looks into the future as he bares his soul, warts and all. He shuns glitz, glitter and hucksterism. He hates the exploitation of the land and the people who inhabit it. He is passionate but not preachy. Holt is maturing; evolving as a writer and Artic Aurora deserves a place on the bookshelf next to authors like MacLean, Gierach and Travers.

0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Teedjous boozy and insubstantialBy William L.I put this on my X-mas wish list based on the positive ratings. I ended up with two copies and having read as much as I could handle, can say I'm doubly disappointed. If you want some useful info on north country fishing and more than vignettes as stale as the air in a backcountry bar at 10 am, shop elsewhere. The first couple of chapters held my attention as I waited for some character development of the author's daughter as they travelled together in NWT but waited in vain as she comes off a shallow silhouette making and breaking camp or fishing with dad (some distance away in several senses of the word). I don't mean to imply anything about what she may be in reality, just how she comes accross in this work (albeit I wonder how she will make better choices than caretaker-of-dependant-personality-role in her own life). The balance of the book is strong on the tedium of driving long distance, booze, and a high fat, high sugar series of meals recounted in far too much detail. John McPhee this guy ain't, despite the detail of numerous turnouts and other attractions of Canadian roads. I hate to say it but my lasting impression is that the reality of the trips was a 'vehicle' for the booze and smokes and stoney sleep, lacking much meaning to relate after the guy sobered up. He'll make a buck on this book (or two in my case) but that ain't the same as making amends. As a parting shot, an angling writer who touts all the 3 pound grayling to be caught with ease in various road accessible streams (even in NWT or YT) does the resource a disservice.

Imagine a land more than a dozen times the size of Montana, a land of immense inland seas, oceans of uncut forests, and myriad untamed rivers filled with huge northern pike, arctic grayling, and char. It is also a land of rock and of ice that lies glistening beneath flickering northern lights, a place where grizzlies wander among isolated mountain ranges, where polar bears roam among herds of caribou on the tundra flats. This is Canada's far north, the place of Arctic Aurora.

From BooklistCanada's Northwest Territories--an area larger than California, Montana, and Wyoming combined--boast a population of less than 42,000 and, according to Holt, a wealth of terrifying roads, beautiful landscapes, bloodthirsty mosquitoes, and prime fishing spots. Best known for his fly-fishing guides, Holt here compiles a "road report" of his experiences in the territories. These straightforward essays, gleaned from nine trips, outline the people, towns, and wildlife of Canada's Far North. The author doesn't claim to be objective, and many of his frustrations have to do with "bizarrely dressed" tourists who "descend upon the community like a poorly imagined nightmare," and the environmental destruction wrought by oil and mining companies. While Holt is no Barry Lopez or Rick Bass, his love of open country and fishing rescue the book from becoming merely a list of motels, restaurants, and meals taken along the road. A curmudgeonly yet useful guide to planning a trek above the sixtieth parallel. Rebecca MakselCopyright American Library Association. All rights reservedAbout the AuthorA full-time writer, John Holt is the author of several guides to fly fishing in Montana, among other books, and his essays have appeared in the nations most prestigious fly-fishing and outdoor publications, including Fly Rod Reel, Grays Sporting Journal, Fly Fisherman, and

Field Stream. John lives in Livingston, Montana.