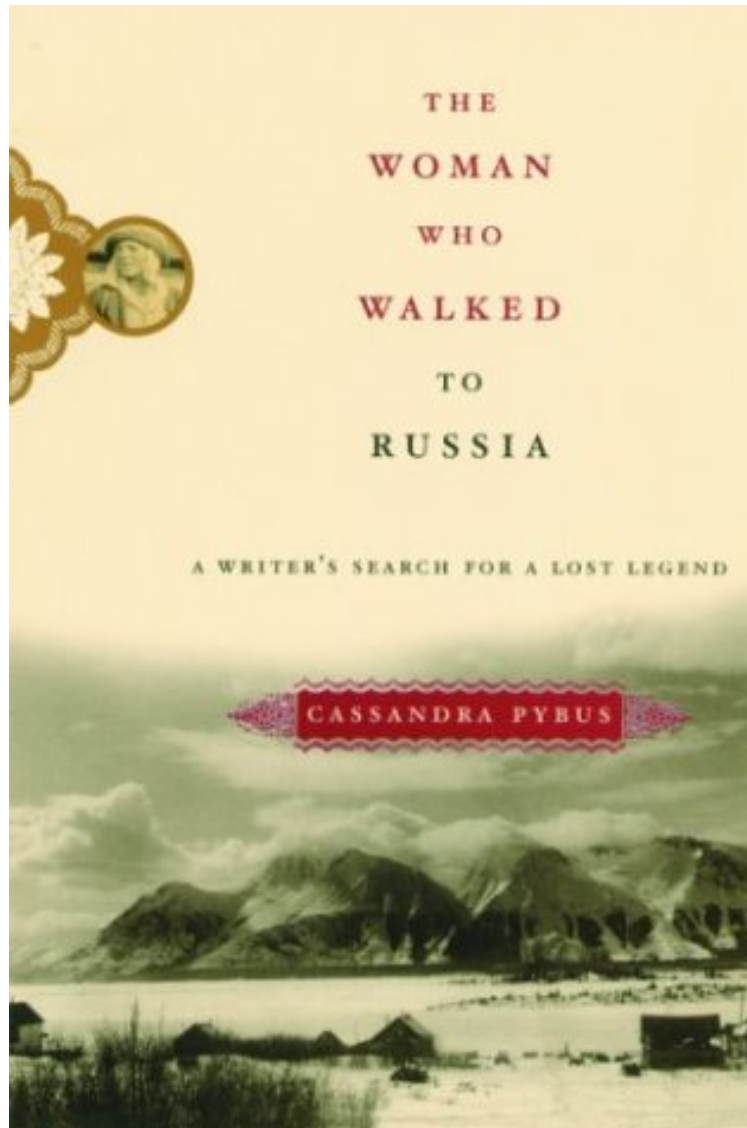


(Ebook free) The Woman Who Walked to Russia: A Writer's Search for a Lost Legend

The Woman Who Walked to Russia: A Writer's Search for a Lost Legend

Cassandra Pybus

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Cassandra Pybus : The Woman Who Walked to Russia: A Writer's Search for a Lost Legend before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Woman Who Walked to Russia: A Writer's Search for a Lost Legend:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The book is a good read.By joanAs other reviewers mention, the book has long diversion into the trip the author herself is taking. I found that to be engrossing. The difficulties of

remote travel, the homesickness and stress - all come through as relevant themes to the existential journey of a mysterious woman in the 1920s, whose story is destined to remain largely unknown. The book is a good read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not about Ailing, rude at times, meandering, and needs revision. By Garrett Zecker I really, really wanted to read this book and learn about Lillian Ailing. I really wanted to like it. I was not a fan of this book. At all. In fact, I am not even sure I could tell you what it was about... but not in that way where you are really excited and can't explain it. I can't tell you what it was about in a bad way. Pybus' book is advertised as an exciting adventure meant to show a writer on the heels of the enigmatic Lillian Ailing - it isn't. It is also billed as a wilderness travelogue that shows the wild northeast while following a ragtag Thelma and Louise on their journey. Nope, not that either. A research or nature book? Not really. A historical study? Not quite. Well written without any grammatical errors? Where do I start? The book isn't about Ailing. The book is mainly about how she can't find anything on her, and then she speculates and makes up a story. The most concrete thing happens in the last five pages. In terms of Thelma and Louise, not even close. The relationship between Pybus and her companion only lasts a portion of the book, and eventually Pybus begins to criticize her eating habits, weight, the difference in how they look at their ages... in fact, there was so much complaining about such incidental, surface, gossipy things, that it was actually an insult to Thelma, Louise, and the women's movement in general. Pybus came off as simply a bad person that no one would want to travel with - and of course, her friend leaves. There is a lot of historical and nature writing in the book - but much of it lacks organization and purpose. She jumps from one topic to the next without a thread of commonality that I could follow. When something interesting would come up, it would change, and change again by the end of the page, and it felt like a list of facts or natural observations that were just... a list. The most frustrating parts of the book were when Pybus would be at the library or interviewing someone, explain the process in extreme detail, and then after a couple pages you learn she didn't learn anything. Finally, the writing. There was a lot wrong. A taste: "...a seventy-three-year-old who climbs to the top of a thirty-metre tower and sets herself on fire before diving two metres of water covered in flames." There are so many glaring proofreading errors, I am embarrassed for it. One portion of the book that sums it up. In response to something she read about one of the few articles on Ailing, she criticizes the writer by noting it "sounds like a desperate journalist's guesswork to me." If anything, Pybus sure knows it when she sees it. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. very well written but not really about the subject! By bookworm I have just finished reading this book and really enjoyed it but not for the reasons I bought it! I have never travelled in these areas but have read a lot about it. I have however travelled a lot independently in several continents and felt really frustrated with Cassandra's attitude to the trip. It's like she was afraid of anything out of her normal life! Yes I would be afraid of bears too but would still love to have the money to do such a potentially adventurous trip. Her relationship with her friend Gerry was very interesting, I too have travelled with other females before and sometimes nearly came to blows. Very few people can deal with someone else's idiosyncrasies 24/7 without getting up each other's noses. It's just human!! Gerry actually sounded more adventurous than Cassandra although the bulimia is a bit worrying.. I was rather disappointed not more was found about Lillian. Although I think the author is an excellent writer anyone looking for any kind of in depth view of this region will be disappointed. Regarding her view of "Into the Wild" it is a truly fantastic book whatever you think of his motives I think that Ms Pybus is really just not getting it when she doesn't see his appeal to younger people. Or anyone for that matter..

From the moment Cassandra Pybus first heard about Lillian Alling's trek across North America, she couldn't get the story out of her mind. This is how it went: Desperate with homesickness, Lillian Alling, a recent immigrant to the United States from the Soviet Union, haunted the New York Public Library, studying the atlas to establish the most direct route home to her native Russia. Her English was poor but she understood the hieroglyphics of cartography. In the spring of 1927, aided only by a hand-drawn map, she started to walk home. Pybus searched for clues about this enigmatic pedestrian. When her historical sleuthing yielded little, she set out on her own trek to trace Lillian's route through the wilderness of northwestern Canada and subarctic Alaska and Siberia. The result is an entertaining travel narrative that pieces together Alling's journey through the natural beauty and rich history of northwestern North America - a story never before told.

From Publishers Weekly Australian writer Pybus takes a fitful journey through Canada and Alaska to follow in the footsteps of Lillian Alling, a Russian woman who, in 1927, walked from New York City to British Columbia, thinking that she could reach Siberia. What little Pybus knows about this "compulsive pedestrian" comes from vague newspaper clippings that describe her as nearly mute, emaciated and resembling "a haunted person." Imbued with curiosity and kinship for her "elusive quarry," Pybus sets out with her traveling companion, Gerry, a robust and prickly fellow Aussie, on "a kind of feminist adventure. A cross between Thelma and Louise and the Two Fat Ladies," the two drive for hours on perilous roads, lodge in freezing cabins and spend a lot of time arguing - mostly about food, the aspects of which (starvation, bulimia, nutrition and guilt) become a recurrent theme. The scenes with Gerry add spark to Pybus's often hopeless wild goose chase, and when they part ways, Gerry's sass is missed. However, in the face of constant disappointment and dead-ends, Pybus turns her attention to the world around her for inspiration, and her

accounts of bear sightings, salmon spawning and weather patterns, along with her keen social interest in the logging and hunting industries, create a textured portrait of a dazzling, dangerous landscape. In the end, a few small developments surface to add insight and meaning to Alling's trek, but the real journey is Pybus's, as she is a lively and likable wanderer. Map. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist The legend of Lillian Alling, a 1920s Russian immigrant so homesick that she walked from New York to Siberia, would catch the imagination of even the most hardened skeptic. Few, however, could extract as cohesive a story out of this heretofore shadowy tale of the Canadian Northwest as skillfully as award-winning Australian historian Pybus. Immigration archives on the East Coast prove inconclusive, so she gathers her forces, grants, and friends and journeys through the still dangerous Canadian wilderness where there were documented sightings of Lillian. Pybus starts out with a traveling companion, but they break up. Then, while clues to Lillian are scarce, the journey itself becomes the essence of the tale, clarifying what is important and valuable in the writer's own life. Along the way, Pybus encounters extraordinary scenery, remarkable people, and a surprising string of archives in the most unlikely places, but no plausible basis for the story until she heads for home. In the end, this is an engrossing chronicle of journeys--physical, emotional, and intellectual. Danise Hoover Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved