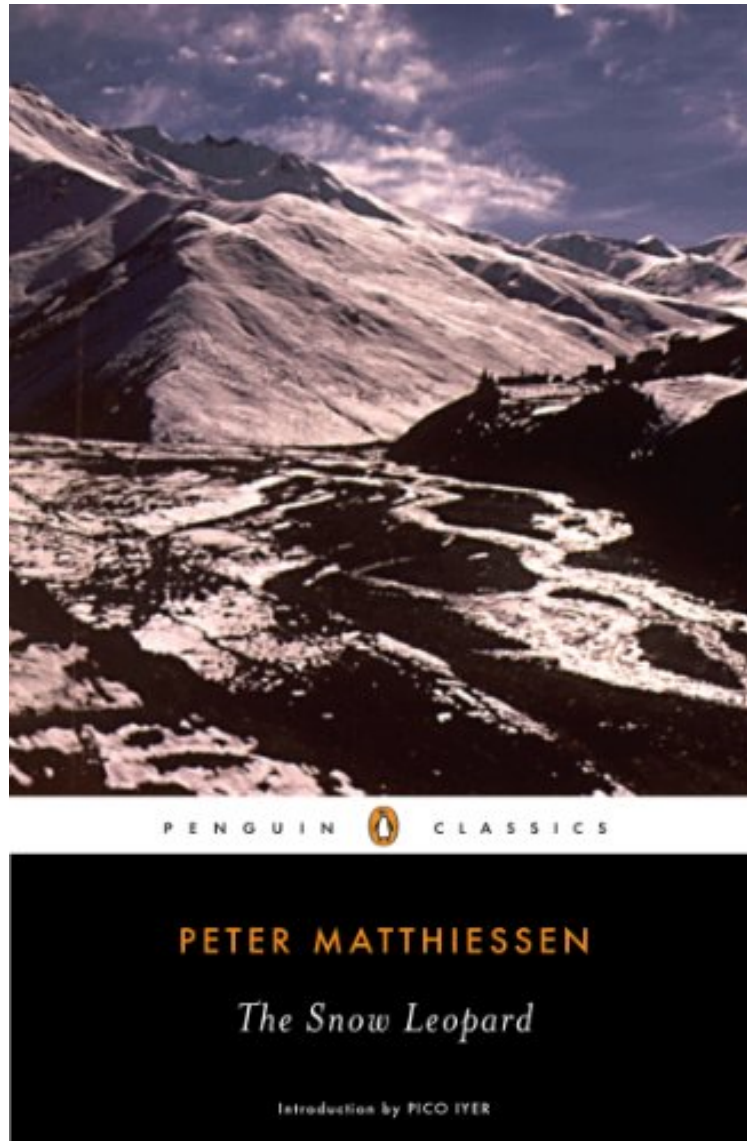


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Peter Matthiessen

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#27284 in Books Peter Matthiessen 2008-09-30 2008-09-30 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.70 x .60 x 5.10l, .58 #File Name: 0143105515368 pages The Snow Leopard | File size: 27.Mb

Peter Matthiessen : The Snow Leopard (Penguin Classics) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Snow Leopard (Penguin Classics):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Nepal from a Distance By Marilyn S. Michell looked for this book for years, and I finally bought my own copy. I finished it, and I will read it again. I was disturbed to find out he had left behind his 8-year old son after his wife died the year before (his other children were in boarding school). By the end of the book, it wasn't clear what he really got out of his pilgrimage. It was intense to read it while earthquakes

shook poor Nepal. He is a good writer. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Embodiment of the spirit of adventure. By Jon K. Stick with it. Some of the metaphysical aspects are a little fuzzy but it comes together well and will always be one of my favorite adventure stories. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. One of the classics of travelogue literature: *The Snow Leopard* By Magalini Sabina Thoreaux: Where in all the world is the literature that gives expression to Nature? Here it is, in Peter Matthiessen's National Book Award Winning "*The Snow Leopard*". Peter Matthiessen is now a living legend, a prophet of ecological thought and a long time American Buddhist, but in 1973, when the book was conceived he still wasn't so famous. At the age of 46 he decided to trek through the Inner Dolpo region of Nepal with his friend and co-explorer G. Schaller (well known for his studies on the Mountain Gorillas) to study the bharal (Himalayan blue sheep) and to try to get a glimpse of the mysterious and rare snow leopard. From September to December the two men traveled with sherpas and porters from Pokhara, around the Annapurna, the Dhaulagiri, through the Jang-La Pass, to Phoksumdo Lake to the Crystal Mountain and the Shey Gumpa Monastery and back, studying the wild life and rutting habits of bharal. While G. Schaller was basically interested in animals, Matthiessen in that period a Zen scholar, utilized the travel expedition to expose his thoughts, exercise his meditation abilities, recall his memories of past experiences (drugs, deaths, remorse and expectations) but most of all to paint with lyrical pen and great descriptive talent his surroundings and the people he met. This book is a little dated, and while reading it I was reminded of that great chapter of American writing that ties together Pirsing, Castaneda and many others, but none the less it is fascinating and gratifying because it resonates with a transcendent religious feeling of nature. In "*The Snow Leopard*" the ecological thought that weaves its way in all Matthiessen's works is still not full blown, but this makes the book even more incisive because the perception of his convictions lends a magic atmosphere to the travelogue. The reader has an intuition of the importance of respect of wildlife independently from modern day recriminations on its destruction. The philosophical/religious aspect is also very interesting, because we can see the fascination of an intellectual American with Buddhist thought. Peter Matthiessen is very generous of his knowledge and puts all his rich Buddhist experience in the text, explaining history, traditions and customs of the Tibetan culture. Matthiessen is also a very good interpreter of characters, as is evident from his novels. All the people he empathically describes jump out of the page and come to life. The canny and mysterious Tukten (maybe a guiding figure like Dante's Virgilio or a true Bodhisattva) and the nave and faithful Dawa become our friends as well, but also the many minor encounters like the Lama of Shey pass forever into literary history to be remembered. Two points of highlight are how the Author manages to convey the pleasure and the fatigue of the physical trip. I could actually feel his boots and the joy of having broken them in, the discomfort of the sun glaring on the snow and the beauty of the birds, flowers and landscapes he describes. The second is the excellence of the prose. Selected paragraphs are poems of beauty and the perfect use of the English language is in itself a reason to rejoice. This book is also a very personal and introspective diary. It talks about the man and his problems and probably this is the single most touching point of this great nature classic. At a distance of 30 years, people are taking guided trekking tours to Shey Gumpa and its protected Natural Park, and much of the mystery has dissolved, however still few have seen the snow leopard, and discussion is still raging on the existence of the Yeti or Bigfoot. Read and reread this nature classic to capture all its merits. It is landmark of the American perception of Buddhism, ecological thought and one of the best travelogues around.

An unforgettable spiritual journey through the Himalayas by renowned writer Peter Matthiessen (1927-2014), the National Book Award-winning author of the new novel *In Paradise*. In 1973, Peter Matthiessen and field biologist George Schaller traveled high into the remote mountains of Nepal to study the Himalayan blue sheep and possibly glimpse the rare and beautiful snow leopard. Matthiessen, a student of Zen Buddhism, was also on a spiritual quest to find the Lama of Shey at the ancient shrine on Crystal Mountain. As the climb proceeds, Matthiessen charts his inner path as well as his outer one, with a deepening Buddhist understanding of reality, suffering, impermanence, and beauty. This Penguin Classics edition features an introduction by acclaimed travel writer and novelist Pico Iyer. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

.com In the autumn of 1973, the writer Peter Matthiessen set out in the company of zoologist George Schaller on a hike that would take them 250 miles into the heart of the Himalayan region of Dolpo, "the last enclave of pure Tibetan culture on earth." Their voyage was in quest of one of the world's most elusive big cats, the snow leopard of high Asia, a creature so rarely spotted as to be nearly mythical; Schaller was one of only two Westerners known to have seen a snow leopard in the wild since 1950. Published in 1978, *The Snow Leopard* is rightly regarded as a classic of modern nature writing. Guiding his readers through steep-walled canyons and over tall mountains, Matthiessen offers a narrative that is shot through with metaphor and mysticism, and his arduous search for the snow leopard becomes a

vehicle for reflections on all manner of matters of life and death. In the process, *The Snow Leopard* evolves from an already exquisite book of natural history and travel into a grand, Buddhist-tinged parable of our search for meaning. By the end of their expedition, having seen wolves, foxes, rare mountain sheep, and other denizens of the Himalayas, and having seen many signs of the snow leopard but not the cat itself, Schaller muses, "We've seen so much, maybe it's better if there are some things that we don't see." That sentiment, as well as the sense of wonder at the world's beauty that pervades Matthiessen's book, ought to inform any journey into the wild. --Gregory McNamee a Stunning . . . Fiercely felt and magnificently written. a a "The Washington Post Book World" a A magical book, a kind of lunar paradigm and map of the sacred. a Jim Harrison, "The Nation" Stunning . . . Fiercely felt and magnificently written. "The Washington Post Book World" A magical book, a kind of lunar paradigm and map of the sacred. Jim Harrison, "The Nation"? Stunning . . . Fiercely felt and magnificently written.? ? "The Washington Post Book World" ? A magical book, a kind of lunar paradigm and map of the sacred.? ? Jim Harrison, "The Nation" About the Author Peter Matthiessen was the cofounder of *The Paris Review* and is the author of numerous works of nonfiction, including *In the Spirit of Crazy Horse*, *Indian Country*, and *The Snow Leopard*, winner of the National Book Award.