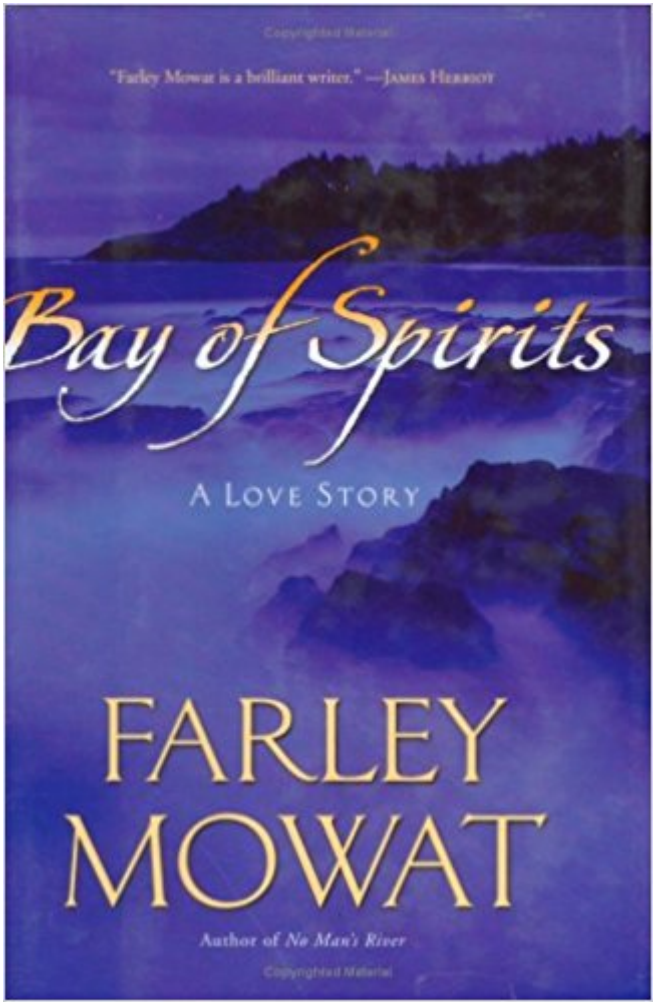
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Bay Of Spirits: A Love Story



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Synopsis

This is the story of a love affair with a people and a place, of the summers Farley Mowat spent sailing the Newfoundland coast with his wife Claire. It is an affectionate, unforgettable portrait of a time, a people, and a place, as well as the indomitable spirit of this island province.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In this ruminative memoir, Mowat chronicles the disappearance of a way of life in Newfoundland and the chance encounter that brought him the love of his life. As a young writer in 1957, Mowat decided to travel on a tramp steamer among the small fishing villages known as outports that dotted the Newfoundland coast. These outports were the home of hardy and colorful fisherfolk of Basque, English, Irish and French descent. Government policy and the depletion of the regional fisheries by huge commercial trawlers were slowly forcing the locals out of their centuries-old homes. Mowat enjoyed the area so much that he bought a schooner for further exploration. Soon afterward, a young woman fleeing the overeager attentions of an amorous mutt stumbled on board his ship and romance quickly followed. Mowat and Claire Wheeler spent the next decade sailing in the rocky bays, thick fogs and sudden squalls of the region. The author of 40 books, mostly on nautical and adventure themes, Mowat has a deep understanding of the sea and the natural world. His observations of the outporters are equally perceptive and provide a fascinating window into a little known corner of North America. In this tender elegy to a lost Newfoundland, Mowat shows an amused tolerance for almost everything except the human greed that has inexorably destroyed his adopted home’s cultures and environment. (May) Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a

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Canada’s most idiosyncratic province is as large a presence as Canada’s most idiosyncratic writer in this moving memoir of the love of a woman and the love of a particular place. In 1957, Mowat boarded a steamer that plied Newfoundland’s rugged coastline. It was love at first sight, and Mowat would revisit often until he bought his Happy Schooner. On one Newfoundland nautical adventure he met Claire Wheeler. He was married to another then and had two small children. Never trying to justify his behavior, Mowat presents how he transferred his affections and his domicile matter-of-factly. The emotional heart of the story lies in remote Burgeo, Newfoundland, where he and Claire settled. The book concludes bittersweetly when the killing of a trapped whale nearly becomes an international incident with Mowat in the thick of it. Mowat has visited whale killing before (A Whale for the Killing, 1972) but here offers a more personal perspective. In Newfoundland, he realized that, no matter how he loved this orneriest of provinces, he would forever remain a stranger. June SawyersCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is the tale of two love stories -- one covered extensively, one almost glossed over by books’ end.Farley Mowat came to Newfoundland in the early 1960s and fell in love, both with the land and its people, and with a young artist named Claire Wheeler. It’s the former that Mowat dwells upon the most in this book, and as a reader I left frustrated because we learn so comparatively little about Claire and about their life together. It takes 1/3 of the book for Mowat to reveal that he was married when he met Claire, and that the the tug of his family -- including two sons -- delayed his eventual divorce. His former family is dismissed in a paragraph.Having faced the music, Mowat settles down with Claire aboard his famously unseaworthy boat, "Happy Adventure", the star the classic "The Boat Who Wouldn’t Float." Readers of "The Boat" will be startled by anecdotes, names and dates changing from one book to another. It gives creedence to the charge leveled against Mowat that he never lets the facts get in the way of a good story.Ultimately this lovely book covers a period of but seven years, and ends just after Mowat’s futile attempt to stop the people of his adopted home of Burgeo from killing a whale that has become trapped in a tidal pond. The whale died, the locals were savaged by the press, and the Mowats decided it was time to leave Burgeo and venture in Happy Adventure to Expo 67 (a voyage that nearly ended many times, if "The Boat" is to be believed.)This is a wonderful book but I wanted more -- what happened to Happy Adventure? What

happened to Mowat’s sons? Where did they settle after the Expo trip? Much has happened between 1967 and now! -- I hope to hear more about the Mowat’s voyages though these most interesting times.

Classic Mowat! Delves deep and never disappoints.

Such an easy & pleasant read. You really can tell how much Farley loves Newfoundland & it’s people.

Exceedingly happy with the condition of this used book by author Farley Mowat. It was a gift for a family member this Christmas who is eagerly consuming all that Mowat has written. This book arrived promptly and in "like new" condition.

excellent book

Farley Mowat writes a moving story about how he met his wife Claire by accident while trying to escape a vicious dog, and, in doing so, also "kills two birds with one stone" by portraying the colorful, insular people of Newfoundland in the 1950’s as well as the inhabitants of the almost unheard of French islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon in the North Atlantic off the coast of St. John, NF. I would highly recommend this book to those who enjoy learning about new places and people, and at the same time would want to curl up with a well-written love story.

SO GOOD HE GETS TO THE REALLY MEAING OF HOW LIKE ISTHANK YOU AWC

I had to set aside my feelings about a married man with two young children at home somewhere in Canada cavorting around Newfoundland with a young woman in this sometimes sex and alcohol-fueled story and try to remember not only his message but that Mowat’s recent death left us with one less friend of the earth. I read Born Naked recently and it was clear that as a child he was given free rein to do whatever he wanted and also had the example of a serially unfaithful father.There are hard parts to read and I had to skip over them. I did not read the final chapter as I don’t want it in my memory. The rest of the book was enjoyable. The people of this land were so interesting. The book suffers from a virtual lack of maps even though he is constantly talking about places along the coasts that the reader needs to visualize.No matter what, Farley Mowat did so

much for the beings on this earth who have no voice. I liked him immensely.

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