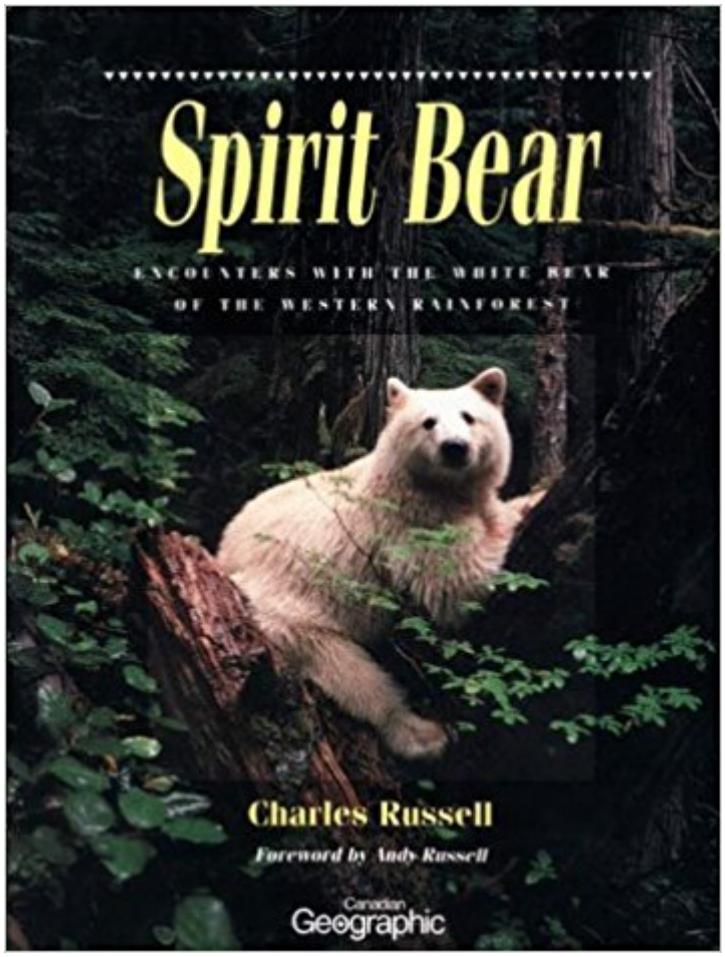
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Spirit Bear: Encounters With The White Bear Of The Western Rainforest



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Synopsis

SPIRIT BEAR is the story of renowned wildlife photographer Charles Russell's quest to forge a unique relationship of mutual trust with the rare white subspecies of black bear known as the Kermode bear of Princess Royal Island, Canada. This wonderful book, illustrated with 100 stunning color photographs, is part of an ongoing effort by conservationists to save Princess Royal Island as a sanctuary for the Kermode bear.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

[T]he white bear [is a] totemic symbol that stands for a singular national treasure called Princess Royal Island. (Sid Marty Canadian Geographic)Visually stunning. (Calgary Sun)Russell inspires love for these rare bears, and readers will no doubt appreciate that this book will support efforts to protect Spirit Bear's home. (Quill and Quire) --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Charles Russell

Lovely photography and narratives.

This book captures the essence of the wonder and beauty of some of Nature's most alluring creations. Through simple language and straightforward observation, the author engages the reader into an emotional attachment with the elusive white bear in the Pacific Coast region of British

Columbia, Canada, as well as with other companion wildlife and the incredibly beautiful forest that is home to these majestic animals. The photographs alone are worth the purchase of this book, but the reverence that the writer understandably develops for the wildlife he comes to know left me with a rare satisfaction of having been shown a part of our world I would not otherwise have ever known. The author describes the scenery, animals and adventures with alternating humor and drama in vivid detail, and with a clarity of purpose. This is the first book I have read by this author, and it makes me want to read others by him. As the author's father wrote in the Foreword, this is a 'beautiful book'.

This is a story about an adventure to film the white spirit bear variant of black bear. The story and pictures are great.

The book was delivered promptly - very good condition. Look forward to reading as I already perused nicely done, beautiful photos.

It's been awhile since I read this but I remember using this a a guide to order other Charles Russell books. The photography was magnificent! The writing was very informative and succinct. It's the kind of book you can place in your living room and someone is sure to pick it up!

Eyeing you from the dust jacket of Spirit Bear is a very relaxed, improbable looking white bear with a benign, even friendly, air. It is the embodiment of the main subject of the book. The author begins by summarizing his own and his family's long history and experience with black and grizzly bears. In so doing he establishes his credibility before describing his encounters with' the Kermode bear, a rare white variant of the black bear that inhabits some of the largely undisturbed west coast islands. Russell was wise to open in this manner as the story that follows truly stretches the reader's credulity. After recounting how he came to be on Princess Royal Island to film the white bears with Sue and Jeff Turner, we learn how they got to know the Spirit Bear, and how they developed an extraordinary relationship with him. The Spirit Bear not only "enjoyed" human company, but he fished with people, slept beside them, and allowed the author to scratch and even tickle him between his toes! Perhaps most incredible is the incident when men and bear play tug-of-war, with the bear attempting to initiate a wrestling match without harming his human friends. After these amazing adventures, the last chapter is somewhat disappointing. We read about how the author and the Turners, after several months' absence from Princess Royal Island during the winter,

returned and spent their last summer finishing their film. However, only one brief paragraph is devoted to their meeting with the Spirit Bear and the renewal of their extraordinary friendship. Despite this disappointment, the book is well worth the price. Although not always technically perfect, the amazing photographs are generally very good and document some of the incredible events described in the narrative. The text not only provides fascinating insights into bear behaviour, but give? plenty of reasons to change preconceived notions about bear aggression. Underlying the story is a message about the importance of keeping an open mind when dealing ! with animals. But don't expect the next bear you meet to treat you as a long lost friend. THERESA ANISKOWICZ

This is a fascinating story of rare and beautiful animals and the crew of research photographers who became intimately associated with them. It offers some startling revelations into the life and behavior of bears. The Spirit Bear, or Kermode Bear, is a white genetic variety of black bear, found only on Princess Royal Island off British Columbia. The region is also home to black bears and grizzly bears which are included in the book as well. What is most remarkable here is how the bears on the island, which had very little prior human contact, accepted the crew with an open gentleness allowing many close encounters to be documented. The book is written in an engaging first person style and beautifully photographed with close ups of bears in various activities. It will surely be a favorite addition to the library of any nature lover.

Spirit Bear is the best combination of a well-conceived book design, telling photography, and an exceptional storyline. The author's credibility is supported by a three-generation family history in grizzly bear country. His true experience, though, is reflected in his down-to-earth sincerity and simplicity of reporting. Reverence, balanced with pragmatic humor, sets a very ageeable tone for this fascinating book. With only one very moderately bloody-nosed bear photo, you could quite readily share this book with children. I grew up in bear country and now live in the heart of tree-hugging country and I found this book to be true to the core of both. And a darn fine read.

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