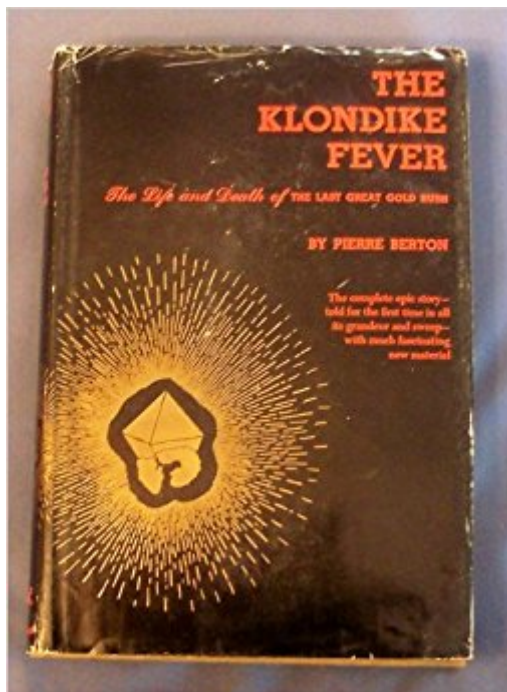


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The Klondike Fever



Synopsis

This thrilling story is at once first-rate history and first-rate entertainment. Some of the anecdotes of the last great gold rush have been told by others, but Pierre Berton is the first to distill the Klondike experience into a single, complete, coherent, and immensely dramatic narrative.

Book Information

Hardcover: 457 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 63 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Pierre Berton was one of Canada's most popular and prolific authors. From narrative histories and popular culture, to picture and coffee table books to anthologies, to stories for children to readable, historical works for youth, many of his fifty books are now Canadian classics. Born in 1920 and raised in the Yukon, Pierre Berton worked in Klondike mining camps during his university years. He spent four years in the army, rising from private to captain/instructor at the Royal Military College in Kingston. He spent his early newspaper career in Vancouver, where at 21 he was the youngest city editor on any Canadian daily. He wrote columns for and was editor of *Macleans* magazine, appeared on CBC's public affairs program *"Close-Up"* and was a permanent fixture on *"Front Page Challenge"* for 39 years. He was a columnist and editor for the *Toronto Star* and was a writer and host of a series of CBC programs. Pierre Berton received over 30 literary awards including the Governor-General's Award for Creative Non-Fiction (three times), the Stephen Leacock Medal of Humour, and the Gabrielle Leger National Heritage Award. He received two Nellys for his work in broadcasting, two National Newspaper awards, and the National History Society's first award for "distinguished achievement in popularizing Canadian history." For his immense contribution to Canadian literature and history, he was awarded more than a dozen

honourary degrees, is a member of the Newsman's Hall of Fame, and is a Companion of the Order of Canada. Pierre Berton passed away in Toronto on November 30, 2004.

I ordered this Kindle edition to get more of an understanding of the experience of the Klondike gold rush after reading my grandfather's diaries that he kept while mining for gold on the Kenai Peninsula of Alaska between 1898-1903. After reading this, it is clear that he made a wise choice in going where he did, rather than over the Chilkoot or White Pass trails into the Yukon. He came out if it with expenses barely covered and a stock certificate, now in my possession, entitling him to 300,000 shares of stock in his mining company at \$1 per share, which he never saw a dime of. But back to the book - I thoroughly enjoyed it from beginning to end. The author's personal connection to the locale and the times, plus his extensive research and his engaging writing style, really conveys the intensity - and insanity - of this last great gold rush, and the people who put everything on the line to be a part of it, for better or worse (mostly worse). I highly recommend it to anyone who wants to know more about this time in our history.

I haven't finished the book yet - about three-quarters of the way through. But this is a real page-turner, and it does a terrific job bringing the Klondike Gold Rush to life for the reader. All of the stories are there that would be familiar to the casual student of that period, but there is so much more detail for the reader, plus any number of interesting "side stories" to the central Gold Rush narrative that one might be familiar with.

This is the 3rd time we've purchased this book (keep giving them away!) If you are even marginally interested in the Klondike goldrush, Alaskan history or the settlement of the Northwest, you will find this book fascinating. It is simply unbelievable what human beings can do if they are so inspired! Give it a read; you won't be sorry.

A lively, well researched and fact filled account of a crazy time and the men and women who lived it. It seethes with life and stories of incredible persistence, failure, optimism and success. Even if success was only staying alive in the Yukon. This is my second read of this magnificent piece of history. For incurable romantics, travel buffs and those who love a good story

Very good book, but got a little boring towards the end.

I purchased this book for research and honestly did not expect such an interesting read. Very enjoyable! Even if you're not a long time fan of facts from the Klondike gold rush this is entertaining enough to capture your interest.

Wow. Really cool stories of travelers to the Yukon gold rush: the burdens, trials, tribulations, scams, characters, takers, helpers, winners, and losers. Clear eyed descriptions of what it was like on the trails and in the ditches. Highly recommend.

All Berton's books are excellent Canadian stories. But this one is special. Berton, the journalist/historian, is recounting the events that included his father and of the Klondike area where Berton himself grew up and worked in the mines as a teenager. I can't imagine anyone who knows more about this subject. It is in his blood. Then add to that his storytelling skills and you have a great book!

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