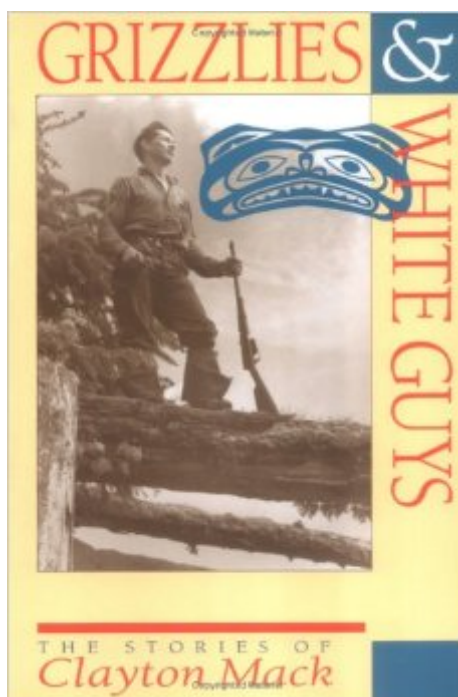


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Grizzlies & White Guys: The Stories Of Clayton Mack



Synopsis

The extraordinary life story of Clayton Mack (1910-1993), a legendary hunting guide from the Nuxalk Nation (Bella Coola), is told in his own words. To Clayton Mack, who loved the wilderness and whose most precious memories were of the days when people got around without roads, told time without watches, and took planks from giant cedars without axes, the two most mysterious creatures on earth were grizzly bears and Q'umsciwas (white men) - from Crooked Jaw the Indian Agent to the rich and famous men who hired him to guide them on their trophy hunts."The tales are told by a natural storyteller, who as a child was carried as a prop in Native ceremonial dances, and who later found himself dining in Hollywood restaurants with California's most powerful people. His stories are wild and bawdy and funny and tragic, and they reach back through history. They are like native ritual dances, in that it's impossible to separate the magic from the realism: at the end, you will wonder what was real and what was dream. The amazing thing is, it's all true. It's all true."-Mark Hume, journalist for the Vancouver Sun, National Post and author of The Run of the River

Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Harbour; 2nd edition (January 1, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1550171402

ISBN-13: 978-1550171402

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (10 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

A Bella Coola Indian Chief of the isolated West Coast of Canada, Clayton Mack lived by salmon fishing, ranching, trapping and eventually became the most famous big game hunting guide in his area. He guided the rich and famous including Thor Hierdahl and Joe Brooks. His stories are simultaneously riotous and poignant tales of life amongst grizzlies and the often bizarre 'white hunters' who preyed upon the majestic bears. Written from taped interviews with Mack the book preserves his voice and conveys the essence of life as a native in a land dominated by white

people. Honest and unromanticised stories about hunting, the Norht Woods and life as a Native. A unique book.

Grizzlies & White Guys is a collection of the oral stories of Clayton Mack, a Bella Coola indian, which were taped by Harvey Thommasen MD, a family doctor, during his morning rounds at the Bella Coola Hospital, where Clayton Mack spent the last years of his life--telling stories. I was going to give this book four stars, but I couldn't because I really like the stories. Clayton Mack was a grizzly hunting guide for fifty three years in the BC wilderness of Canada. Clayton's stories cover many of the local wildlife including the mysterious sasquatch. Until I read Grizzlies & White Guys, I never would have thought that a collection of hunting stories could be so humorous and fun to read, but they ar Clayton Mack's storytelling is roughhewn and direct but humorous in that salt of the earth, country way.:Chief Squinas loved his homebrew but the police did not. It was illegal, so Chief Squinas used to make his own and ferment it in a hidden place by burying it in a crock underground for a week. Here is a short vignette of what Chief Squinas found when he went to retrieve one batch of homebrew. "That grizzly bear drink almost the whole three gallons of homebrew and pass out there, right beside the creek. That bear lick everything inside. he grab that grizzly bear on his head, grab his ear. 'Damn you, s***-head.' That bear just keep on snoring. Squinas went home. No homebrew. That bear had cleaned him right out." (pages 205-206)

This is a great book about a people and a way of life that had nearly disappeared by the time the book was written. Clayton Mack was one of the last of his kind - a true wilderness tracker of the Bella Coola First Nation, and the inheritance he passed on can be found in the stories of the great hunts and adventures captured in this book. These stories were recorded by a doctor as Clayton passed the last years of his life in a hospice facility, telling his stories until his last breath.

Clayton Mack is my latest hero. I didn't know very much about Clayton prior to reading this book. I have a love of the outdoors, especially the Pacific Northwest, I am deeply interested in Native American history, and I have had a fascination with the Sasquatch phenomenon since I was a child. I have a sizable collection of books on these subjects which all have something in common: they make reference to Clayton Mack. This book is a rich collection of stories and much more. Clayton led me into his magical, magnificent world and delighted me with his musings on life and of the world around him. Future visits to the Pacific Northwest will, for me, be a entirely different experience thanks to Clayton Mack.

The very best storyteller...The life and times of a bygone era...Funny, sad, incredible, and always entertaining....Clayton Mack is the best...First hand experience with Grizzly bears, How things were done, Human nature, The natural world and yes even the Boq (Sasquatch).....a riveting book. BUY IT and READ IT!!!!

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