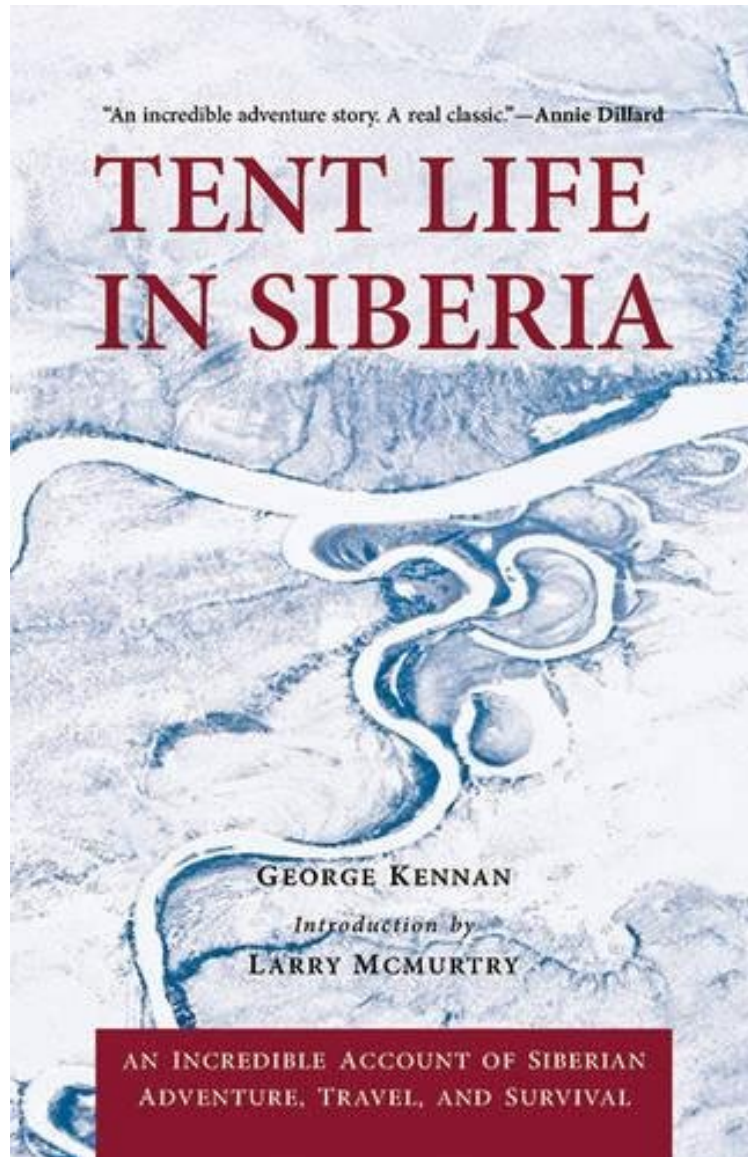


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George Kennan

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George Kennan : Tent Life in Siberia: An Incredible Account of Siberian Adventure, Travel, and Survival
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tent Life in Siberia:
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3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. o good story and a good bookBy austin w boydAlmost unbelievable but you come away from the description with real admiration for the various people who are described. It is different in that the author understates the degree of difficulty. I was mesmerized such that I didn't want to stop even tho I knew the ending. A fine book to have on your shelf to be read again. Walker Boyd7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A Fascinating and Funny Classic of Travel LiteratureBy Michael P. McCulloughThis was a fascinating and surprisingly humorous memoir by George Kennan who spent a couple of years in Northeast Siberia checking out the land and people in Siberia in preparation for a trans Siberian telegraph line that would connect America with Europe. This was in 1865 or thereabouts. Surprise ending: they never built the telegraph because a trans-Atlantic cable was successful. But this book wasn't about telegraphs it is about the nomadic and settled people who lived in this remarkably harsh land 150 years ago. He spent quite a bit of time traveling with nomadic reindeer herding peoples, he traveled about in dog sleds, and describes, in an often hilarious manner, the pathetic lifestyles of the nomadic people who ended up settling in villages (because at one point, regrettably, their reindeer died). Physically I have some complaints about the book - the font was sort of difficult to read - I think this edition was copied directly from an archaic text. Maybe that adds to the feel of the book - like your reading a hundred year old text. The binding was very tight and I had to wrestle the book open every time I turned a page. But in spite of that I would call this a classic of ravel literature. And the author was very funny, nearly the entire book is humorous. Highly recommended. [...]

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Surveying The Frozen Siberian Wilderness On Foot, In 1865By AnonymousThis is a true narrative, written by George Kennan, a very accomplished journalist, in 1865, who completed what I would consider, an impossible task! George Kennan was chosen to lead a group of surveyers whose job it was to survey the Siberian Wilderness in order for Western Union to create a telegraph line across Alaska, the Bering Strait, and Siberia. This telegraph line was to be an important link with European Russia. It's difficult to imagine being exposed to such harsh elements, and not getting very sick or dying! George Kennan and most of his group had happy, adventurous, dispositions, under unbelievable circumstances, and survived to tell about it! They traveled for two years, through snow storms, white-outs, drenching rain and fierce blizzards, sometimes without even a tent. They met many nomads, escaped bear attacks, and practically starved to death. They walked for days in soaking wet clothing, and suffered so many hardships! I loved this book and could not put it down!

An incredible adventure story. A real classic. Annie Dillard, Pulitzer Prizewinning author of Pilgrim at Tinker Creek In the 1860s, the Russian-American Telegraph Company set out to telegraphically connect the United States and Europe using lines running through the Bering Strait and Siberia. The failed expedition marked one of the first explorations of the vast Siberian wilderness, and George Kennan's tale of a seemingly endless land filled with wildlife and nomadic tribes is as entertaining today as it was 140 years ago. With biting humor and poignant insight, Kennan details his years fighting to survive a doomed mission. He depicts the quiet loneliness of the desolate landscape, the eerie glow of the sun at midnight, and the refusal to give in to one of the harshest places man has ever tried to conquer. His book is a testament to our planet's beauty and danger, as well as to the tireless will of the human spirit.

A freshly written and engrossing account. American Heritage An incredible adventure story. A real classic. Annie Dillard, Pulitzer Prizewinning author of Pilgrim at Tinker Creek Breezy, confident, irreverent, and wonderfully readable. Larry McMurtry, Pulitzer Prizewinning author of Terms of Endearment and Lonesome Dove, and co-writer of the adapted screenplay for Brokeback Mountain.