

[Ebook free] The Ice-Shirt: Volume One of Seven Dreams: A Book of North American Landscapes

# The Ice-Shirt: Volume One of Seven Dreams: A Book of North American Landscapes

William T. Vollmann

ebooks / Download PDF / \*ePub / DOC / audiobook



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#313118 in Books William T Vollmann 1993-08-01 1993-08-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x 1.10 x 5.50l, 1.11 #File Name: 0140131965432 pages The Ice Shirt | File size: 70.Mb

**William T. Vollmann : The Ice-Shirt: Volume One of Seven Dreams: A Book of North American Landscapes** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Ice-Shirt: Volume One of Seven Dreams: A Book of North American Landscapes:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A newly discovered Icelandic Saga! By J. P. Spencer I somehow managed to get all the way to this year before ever hearing about Vollmann and the only other one of his books I've read so far is *Europe Central* which I loved. I say this because *The Ice Shirt* was so creative and different that I don't really know how to review this book. Vollmann's subject is the first collision between "Europeans" and "Native Americans", in this case between the Vikings if you will and the Inuit and Micmac in Greenland and Newfoundland. Calling it "historical fiction" is incredibly misleading. Vollmann has sources for pretty much everything in the story but those sources are saga, myth, legend, and clearly much of the story (in fact the most important parts) are not "true" in any kind of objective sense. Rather it really is an imagining of what the collision of different cultures must be like and gives us an explanation for what happened at least as how we know it. In this we should not forget that Vollmann called this Volume One of "Seven Dreams". *The Ice Shirt* really is a dream with all of the imaginings and impossibilities that exist in our dreams. Inserted into that dream are Vollmann's own pieces about visits to the Arctic that give fabulous color to the story of Freydis and Gudrid told in the dream. Nevertheless, Vollmann has produced a brilliant picture of what this clash of cultures must have been like as well as its causes. He has given me much to think about and I will be thinking about *The Ice Shirt* for a long time. And I will be reading the other books in the Seven Dreams series but doing so with no expectations in what they will be like to read. As much as I liked *The Ice Shirt*, I should say that in my opinion, it doesn't all work perfectly (which is why I give this four stars, not five.) Generally the Vikings portions of the story (i.e. the vast majority of the book) are written in a pseudo saga style. Every once in a while, Vollmann inserts (clearly intentionally) a gross anachronism which certainly serves the purpose of jolting the reader but I was not always sure what the point of doing so was. And while I'm the very last person to criticize a writer for being too long or too short (because I always assume the author had purpose for what he or she did or didn't write) here, for me I thought the ending dragged out. Freydis's journey through the underworld was for me too long but when it was over, the story almost abruptly ends. Several people have made the comment that they don't like historical fiction because they can't tell what is true and what is not. Do not avoid *The Ice Shirt* for this reason. The truth of the book is not in the objective history; it is in the psychology of the people. Vollmann has imagined this in a way that was for me absolutely compelling and I recommend it highly.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not for me By William V. Miller I had just read *Dying Grass*, which I loved; a literary masterpiece. I looked forward to *The Ice Shirt* but found it almost unreadable. The first half of the book is a complicated recitation of Norse folklore and legends, which I found confusing and difficult to follow. I gave up, something I almost never do.

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Vollmann - quick and bloody By Reid W. Wyatt Fast-paced story of the discovery of Vinland by the Vikings in the 13th century. A good follow-up to *Beowulf*, keeps you in the period and offers a great measure of Native American mythology as well as the struggles of dealing with a new ideology (Christianity) supplanting the heathen gods of one's ancestors. Fairly quick and a great winter read.

The time is the tenth century A.D. The newcomers are a proud and bloody-minded people whose kings once changed themselves into wolves. The Norse have advanced as implacably as a glacier from Iceland to the wastes of Greenland and from there to the place they call "Vinland the Good." The natives are a bronze-skinned race who have not yet discovered iron and still see themselves as part of nature. As William T. Vollmann tells the converging stories of these two peoples and of the Norsewomen Freydis and Gudrid, whose venomous rivalry brings frost into paradise, he creates a tour-de-force of "speculative history," a vivid amalgam of Icelandic saga, Inuit creation myth, and contemporary travel writing that yields a new and utterly original vision of our continent and its past.

From Publishers Weekly Vollmann's ambitious seven-part series of postmodern historical novels begins with these two volumes, which focus respectively on encounters between Scandinavians and Native Americans in the first millennium C.E. and on the exploits of the French and the missionary Jesuits in Canada from the 16th to the 18th centuries. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal This hefty illustrated novel, the first installment of a seven-volume "symbolic history" of North America, is an imaginative retelling of the Norse discovery of Vinland, with the accent on "imaginative." The scholarship is impeccable--the book is packed with glossaries, chronologies, and bibliographies--but Vollmann takes liberties with his sources in order to "further a deeper sense of truth." For insight into shape-changing he interviews a couple of San Francisco transvestites; other informants include Inuit teens, Scandinavian backpackers, and alcoholics Vollmann meets on the bus. The technique has more in common with New Journalism than with history or fiction. Utterly different in subject matter from Vollmann's previous books-- *You Bright and Risen Angels* (LJ 5/15/87) and *The Rainbow Stories* (LJ 6/15/89)-- *The Ice-Shirt* nevertheless resembles them in scope and degree of difficulty. Highly recommended.- Edward B. St. John, Loyola Law Sch. Lib., Los Angeles Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. About the Author William T. Vollmann is the author of eight novels, three collections of stories, a memoir, and *Rising Up and Rising Down*, which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in nonfiction. Vollmann's writing has been published in *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *The Paris Review*, *Esquire*, *Conjunctions*, *Granta*, and many other magazines. He lives in California.