



Lost in the Barrens

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Awasin, a Cree Indian boy, and Jamie, a Canadian orphan living with his uncle, the trapper Angus Macnair, are enchanted by the magic of the great Arctic wastes. They set out on an adventure that proves longer and more dangerous than they could have imagined. Drawing on his knowledge of the ways of the wilderness and the implacable northern elements, Farley Mowat has created a memorable tale of daring and adventure.

When first published in 1956, *Lost in the Barrens* won the Governor-General's Award for Juvenile Literature, the Book-of-the-Year Medal of the Canadian Association of Children's Librarians and the Boys' Club of America Junior Book Award.

Lost in the Barrens Details

Date : Published September 1st 1987 by McClelland & Stewart (first published 1956)

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Author : Farley Mowat

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From Reader Review Lost in the Barrens for online ebook

Doug Cannon says

This is the first book that I ever owned, and I still have the original copy from 1976. I believe I was in 4th grade, and our teacher had us purchase this book (with our own money, if we could) and keep it.

This teacher inspired me to own many books, and now I hardly know of any books that I have read but do not own. I love my now extensive personal library, and attribute it to this one teacher, and this one book.

Lost in the Barrens was a great story about determination, and about two boys learning to survive together when they were separated from their parents. They eventually realized that they would have to make it through the cold, hard winter in the Northern Barrens, and they did.

It's a great story full of interesting information about lands where Farley Mowat has personally spent many, many years.

I recently read this book to my children, and they loved it as much as I did.

Anastasia ? says

not my favorite book in the world. :(

Arthur says

Farley Mowat has written several books. This one dates as far back 1956, which must have been good for its publishing. And I remember having this book to read in school. And many teachers are willing to influence the students, apart from, that this story mainly opens with a small amount of background of the life of Jamie. Who intends to join his uncle. The field of Canada's explorations for once open up for a high adventure brought by the eyes of quite young boys who happen alert and strong enough to endure such.

Right off Mowat delineates shades and separates distinction of Jamie's provisional trial in the wilderness of Canada. Jamie and Awasin in a wooded land of rare animals, and rarer more are the people, especially Jamie being white, are among Indian people who Jamie should have been accustomed to. He lives rough and with those Indians living in the land at hand.

After all Mowat depicts around his main character Jamie, Jamie's uncle as Angus Macnair and perhaps as the influence of Jamie. Jamie left Toronto to live by supervision. But as Jamie's uncle is a forest's man, Jamie is expected to follow him in every way. This is obviously Jamie's belief too, as Mowat surprises the reader suddenly in the life style of living farther north of Canada.

The adventure and Barrenlands is making its introduction in the mind of young Jamie. From hearing about the Indians who hunt deer in the Barrenlands.

The two boys Awasin and Jamie are convince to visit neighboring tepees of Chipewyan, and given the probabilities, Mowat does a good attempt to stagger one's very own imagination creating something out of

the situation of this original meeting of a Chipeweyan family.

Jeff says

Still my favorite book!

Michelle says

A bit mythical in plot; interesting facts of the area weaved into the storyline nonetheless.

Ibis3 says

This was okay. I never read it as a kid and probably would have enjoyed it more at that time. I found Jamie to be kind of an annoying character, pushing his wiser friend to break the rules and do stupid things. Some of the hunting scenes were needlessly emotional (e.g. drawing the action out, describing the reactions of the prey etc.). I just read The Hunger Games and though there was a lot of hunting in that one too, the author tells rather than shows. I liked all the inventiveness and survival description. Of course, there was some sexism (things described as "women's work" etc) and it utterly failed the Bechdel test. But what can one expect with a typical Boys' Own Adventure type story from 1956?

The Pirate Ghost (Formerly known as the Curmudgeon) says

I read this as a youngster in Junior High School. It had been recommended to me by my older brother, strange as it was that I would read a book he had read.

It's a wonderful "Coming of Age" tale full of danger, adventure, and friendship, set in the wilds of North East Canada and Western Alaska.

For me, it was everything Call of the Wild by Jack London turned out to be, and better, since I was the same age as the characters in the book.

Farley Mowat has a wonderful sense of touch and there are messages in this book about getting along, racism and how to handle it, and how to be someone's friend. I haven't bumped into the same feelings this book inspired until last year when I read Allen Steele's Coyote.

I'd rank it with "The Last of the Mowhicans."

Great story for Young Adults and anyone who with a sense of adventure.

Jason Ashmore says

As an environmental outdoor education teacher I am always looking for great novels for my students to read that will help teach a variety of concepts. After reading this book I have selected this as my choice for grade eight

Mackenzie Bakker says

Being the first book in it's series, Lost in the Barrens sets such a high standard it seems like the other books in this set are doomed to fall short. Farley Mowat has done well in this book in capturing the hardships of survival in the arctic plains of Canada.

In this page turner, you will read about the trials that a pair of boys must go through after their canoe is wrecked on a river far north in Canada's tundra. Jamie MacNair, a Canadian born in Toronto, lives with his uncle Angus on the shores of a lake far north of Manitoba after his parents tragic car accident. Awasin, Jamie's best friend, is a Cree boy who lives near the Macnairs in a village, where he is the Chiefs son. While their fathers are away, they are asked for help from another Indian band farther north then even them, who suffer from starvation after not being able to hunt enough deer to support themselves. The two teens head off to help with a hunt, but find themselves with their canoe wrecked and hundreds of miles from help, with winter fast-approaching.

Jamie and Awasin must feed, cloth, shelter and protect themselves during the brutal arctic winter with not much more than a rifle, axe, rope and frying pan. Farley Mowat has written a masterpiece in this exciting book. Anyone who likes to read about adventure, danger and risk will find this one hard to put down!

Kevin says

The character strength for the main character is that he is courageous. The reason for that is because his friend and himself had to spend a winter in Eskimo territory.

Jo-Jo says

This book was enjoyable and was able to keep my interest throughout.

It is about two young boys...a white boy named Jamie and a Cree Indian boy named Awasin. They are both adventurous and good-hearted youngsters who are full of spirit and courage. The boys go on a trip North with a group of Chippewas whose village is in danger of starving if they don't travel further North in search of caribou to hunt. The boys travel further North with the hunters of the Chippewa tribe but eventually decide to go off on their own adventure. This lands them in deep trouble and they are forced to spend many months in the desolate lands of the far North on their own. They use their ingenuity and experience to survive and do an impressive job of carving out their own little piece of home while they are stuck in this unforgiving land. I was extremely impressed by their hard work and by how they could come up with solutions by working and planning together when a problem would arise. This was a fun read and I even learned quite a bit about how people live their lives and survive when living in the far North of Alaska.

Leah says

Well, that one sent me back to fourth and fifth grade. Of course, I grew up hearing bits of The Dog Who Wouldn't Be as family favorites, but this was the first Arctic book of Farley Mowat's that I'd read, and I'm going to have to read more. I am fascinated by the far North, and by living off the land; this book has sparked a desire in me to reread Julie of the Wolves and other Jean Craighead George, including my favorite book from when I was 10-13 (My Side of the Mountain). Also, I've put Wilderness Inquiry on my list for next summer, as I have no vacation time I can use for it this year.

I don't think I can actually review the book because it just sparked so many other feelings of nostalgia and desire for wilderness that I can't judge it as a work on its own.

Joseph Davis says

Lost in the Barrens is a book of two teenagers go on a hunting trip and get lost in to the enemy territory and winter was coming and this book is about. they had knife shard and a musket with 100 bullets. Before winter came they had a short period of time making a cabin and get food and half way through the winter there was a blizzard that made them home sick and after it ended they decided to go to the others camp witch was weeks away right when they were about to turn around they found a Eskimo that helped them get home. the reasons why i like this book is because it teaches you how to survive in the wilderness and build a cabin.

Tina says

As I read this book I updated my sister constantly with what was befalling the boys on their travels, much to her disdain. She also didn't understand why I was reading this novel on a beach in the summer. When I saw this book in the library I believed I was in the sci-fi section and I thought it was post-apocalyptic. Then I read it was about two teenager boys who get lost in the wilderness and have to survive. "Like Hatchet?" My husband asked. "Like Hatchet?" My (aforementioned) sister asked. Yes, it's like freakin' Hatchet! But what's different about this novel is the boys are lost far far up North in the winter and start out with more survival skills. And yes, unlike Hatchet, I realize the characters don't really have depth - the novel is not a metaphor, it's not meant to show you the psychological harm being lost does to you, it's not even technically for adults. But why was it awesome? Because it's two guys surviving against all odds in the wilderness. "Holy Shit Moment" is one of my tags because crazy shit happens to them all the time. Every ten minutes I was saying, "Kait! Guess what's happening *now*..." and she'd roll her eyes. Despite the pain and boredom and strife the boys went through, this book makes me want to go up North. But maybe *I'm* just batshit crazy. I'm going to buy this book and give it to my future kids. I would have loved it as a child.

Bart Breen says

A book that presents the far north as it really is

Again, Farley Mowat demonstrates that which makes him clearly on of Canada's greatest treasures.

A fictional book, it nevertheless portrays the beautiful tundra of the north. Anyone reading it will be carried by the story but will learn of the beauty of the Barrens, despite its unforgiving brutality.

A book I have read many times and never cease to be impressed by the true beauty of the North!
