



The Reindeer People: Living with Animals and Spirits in Siberia

By Piers Vitebsky

Mariner Books. Paperback. Condition: New. 496 pages. Dimensions: 8.7in. x 5.9in. x 1.3in. Since the last Ice Age, the reindeers extraordinary adaptation to cold has sustained human life over vast tracts of the earths surface, providing meat, fur, and transport. Images carved into rocks and tattooed on the skin of mummies hint at ancient ideas about the reindeers magical ability to carry the human soul on flights to the sun. These images pose one of the great mysteries of prehistory: the reindeer revolution, in which Siberian native peoples tamed and saddled a species they had previously hunted. Drawing on nearly twenty years of field work among the Eveny in northeast Siberia, Piers Vitebsky shows how Eveny social relations are formed through an intense partnership with these extraordinary animals as they migrate over the swamps, ice sheets, and mountain peaks of what in winter is the coldest inhabited region in the world. He reveals how indigenous ways of knowing involve a symbiotic ecology of mood between humans and reindeer, and he opens up an unprecedented understanding of nomadic movement, place, memory, habit, and innovation. The Soviets attempts to settle the nomads in villages undermined their self-reliance and mutual support. In an account...



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