Meet the Brave Tlingit Woman that Changed Alaska Forever

“No Natives Allowed!” The sign blared at the young Tlingit girl from southeast Alaska. The sting of those words stayed with Elizabeth Peratrovich all her life. They also made her determined to work for change.

In 1945, when Elizabeth was 34 years old, she gave a powerful speech before a packed session of the Alaska Territorial Legislature. Her testimony about the evils of racism crowned years of work by Alaska Native people and their allies and led to passage of Alaska’s landmark Anti-Discrimination Act, nearly two decades before President Lyndon Johnson signed the US Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Today, Alaskans honor Elizabeth Peratrovich (1911–1958) every year on February 16 “for her courageous, unceasing efforts to eliminate discrimination and bring about equal rights in Alaska.” (Alaska Statutes 44.12.065).

It’s the kind of book I wish my own children could have read when they were in grade school, a moving story that deserves a place in every school library in this nation. Told in straightforward, readable prose, Fighter in Velvet Gloves is the biography of an Alaska Native woman who, despite adversity, never gave up as she struggled for equality. Both Native and Non-Native young people should be able to identify with Elizabeth Petratrovich, who fought her battles in the far north long before the Civil Rights movement in the American South caught fire.

—Joseph Bruchac, Abenaki author and storyteller, author of Our Stories Remember

We Tlingit people are sensitive about our stories, yet Annie Boochever has delicately managed this conundrum and, with Roy, has achieved a respectful and deeply honest telling of Elizabeth’s life. What I would have given to have had this inspiring book in my hands in my troubled youth.

—Diane Benson, assistant professor at the Department of Alaska Native Studies & Rural Development, University of Alaska Fairbanks
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GO PLAY OUTSIDE!
Tips, Tricks, and Tales from the Trails

Nancy Fresco
Go Play Outside!
Tips, Tricks, and Tales from the Trails
NANCY FRESCO

Go Play Outside! offers practical advice and engaging reading for new parents, not-so-new parents, or anyone who wants to encourage children to enjoy the great outdoors.

Stage by stage, from infancy to the teen years, enjoy stories and real-world examples as you journey on delightful and often hilarious adventures across mountaintops, rivers, and canyons—or just down the street to the local park.

Set in the cold, dark heart of Alaska, the book paints a picture of life at the extremes, while making it clear that you don’t have to be extreme to go play outside.

NANCY FRESCO, Jay Cable, and their twin daughters, Elizabeth and Molly, live in Fairbanks, Alaska. Nancy researches climate change and Jay is a system analyst, both at the University of Alaska; Molly and Lizzy are now high school students. Whenever possible, they disappear into the wilds to play outside.
I THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE MORE WOLVES

poems

SARA RYAN

I Thought There Would Be More Wolves offers a bold voice, fierce and vulnerable. I admire that while it engages pain it does not stay in that space of hurt but pushes beyond to what’s next.

—ELIZABETH BRADFIELD, author of Toward Antarctica
These poems have teeth, bones, and blood—they clack and bruise and make loud sounds. In between these lines, in warm places where blood collects, animals stay hidden and hunted, a girl looks loneliness dead in the eye, and wolves come out of the woods to run across the frozen water of Lake Superior.

SARA RYAN is the author of the chapbooks Never Leave the Foot of an Animal Unskinned (Porkbelly Press) and Excellent Evidence of Human Activity (The Cupboard Pamphlet). In 2018, she won Grist’s Pro Forma Contest and Cutbank’s Big Sky, Small Prose Contest. Her work has been published in Brevity, Kenyon Review, Pleiades, DIAGRAM, Prairie Schooner, Thrush Poetry Journal and other journals. She is a managing editor for Iron Horse Literary Review. She received her MFA from Northern Michigan University, and is currently pursuing her PhD at Texas Tech University.
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Designed to accompany the original Fighter in Velvet Gloves written for young readers and published by UA Press in 2019, this new study guide helps educators easily use the story of this Alaska Civil Rights hero in classrooms.
With unusually vivid storytelling unfolding across an epic canvas, Rettig gives voice to the people whose lives trace the history of modern Alaska. Rettig is one hell of a writer, and in Finding True North spins one hell of a story.

—SCOTT WEIDENSAUL, author of A World on the Wing and Pulitzer Prize finalist Living on the Wind
Melting sea ice and rumbling volcanoes. Sled dogs racing through unnamed valleys. These were the images that came to mind when Molly Rettig moved to Fairbanks, Alaska to work as a reporter at the local newspaper. An avid environmentalist, she couldn’t wait to explore the vast, untamed spaces. But when her 72-year-old neighbor, Clutch, invites her on a tour of his gold mine—an 800-foot tunnel blasted into the side of his house—she begins to question many of her ideas about Alaska, and about herself.

In Finding True North, Rettig takes us on a gripping journey through the past that brings alive the state’s magnificent country and its quirky, larger-than-life characters. She meets a trapper who harvests all she needs from the land, a bush pilot who taught himself how to fly, and an archaeologist who helped build an oil pipeline through pristine wilderness. While she learns how airplanes, mines, and oil fields have paved the way for newcomers like herself, she also stumbles upon a bigger question: what has this quest for Alaska’s natural resources actually cost, and how much more is at stake?

This is a book about all the ways wild places teach us about ourselves. About how one place can be many things to many people—and how all of it can be true.

MOLLY RETTIG is communications director at the Cold Climate Housing Research Center. She moved to Fairbanks in 2010 to work at the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, and still lives there with her husband and two daughters.
Cold Latitudes • Rosemary McGuire

Rosemary McGuire is from and of the cold latitudes about which she writes. It shows in the chop and bang, the beauty and slide of her words as if lifted directly from the Arctic’s intrinsic difficulty and elegance. Not to be missed!

—GRETEL EHRLICH, author of Unsolaced
Cold Latitudes

ROSEMARY MCGUIRE

From solo voyages down the Yukon River and part of the Northwest Passage, to working with humpback whales in the Southern Ocean, to chilling encounters with polar bears, Cold Latitudes is a memoir in essay form based on years of working in the Alaska Arctic and Antarctica. The author was privileged to see firsthand worlds that few will ever know, while participating in cutting-edge research at high latitudes.

It is her friendships with local people, and with scientific researchers, that form the core of her experiences. Through these people, she learns humility and a sense of wonder at the natural world. Throughout, she examines human relationships with wilderness and our growing effects on a fragile planet.

ROSEMARY MCGUIRE works as a biological research technician in the Arctic and Antarctica. She is the author of Rough Crossing: An Alaskan Fisherwoman’s Memoir and The Creatures at the Absolute Bottom of the Sea.
By carefully guiding readers through the concepts of designing perennial gardens—including emphasis on bloom succession, balance, continuity, and the importance of eye movement—Warbelow creates an easy-to-follow, step-by-step process that every gardener can employ!

—BRENDA C. ADAMS, Writer, speaker, educator, and award-winning garden designer
Northern Garden Symphony
Combining Hardy Perennials for Blooms All Season

CYNDIE WARBELOW

Put the power of a garden planning pro to work for you!

Using northern gardens as the venue, long-time Alaska garden designer Cyndie Warbelow examines sequential bloom times of ornamental perennials as a tool in garden design.

The idea of sequential blooming is similar to the workings of a musical symphony: a portion of all plants in the garden are blooming at all times, even though they are not all blooming at the same time. Given that each perennial plant blooms for a limited and specific period of time during the growing season, it is crucial that a garden be designed with sequential bloom times in mind. Warbelow shows you how to select plants, plan, and plant to compose your own northern garden symphony.

CYNDIE WARBELOW built The Plant Kingdom Greenhouse and Nursery, now a well-known spot to buy locally grown plants in Fairbanks. She soon started teaching perennial garden design at many locations including The Plant Kingdom, the Cooperative Extension, Master Gardeners, the National Garden Club, and local garden groups. Warbelow now teaches classes and consults in garden design.
A forgotten classic—not only one of the top books about Alaska Native culture, but one of the best Alaska books ever. . . .
Every bit as fresh and relevant today as it was a quarter century ago.
—NICK JANS, author of *A Wolf Called Romeo*
and contributing editor, *Alaska Magazine*
journey to Alaska’s remote roadless villages, during a time of great historical transition, brings us this enduring portrait of a place and its people.

Alutiiq, Yup’ik, Inupiaq, and Athabascan subjects reveal themselves as entirely contemporary individuals with deep longings and connection to the land and to their past. Tom Kizzia’s account of his travels off the Alaska road system, first published in 1991, has endured with a sterling reputation for its thoughtful, poetic, unflinching engagement with the complexity of Alaska’s rural communities. The Wake of the Unseen Object is now considered some of the finest nonfiction writing about Alaska.

This new edition includes an updated introduction by the author, looking at what remains the same after thirty years and what is different—both in Alaska, and in the expectations placed on a reporter visiting from another world.

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Offering comprehensive coverage of common interior Alaska mushrooms, mosses, and lichens, this long-awaited, fully illustrated guide documents the biodiversity of cryptogams and is destined to be the definitive work on the subject. With its detailed illustrations, photos, and glossary, this book guides the lay person in finding and identifying the best of Alaska’s mushrooms. Entries include family, genus, and species; field characteristics, micro and macro descriptions; habitat and role; and edibility. This comprehensive guide is useful to occasional mushroom hunters and fanciers and to professionals in the cryptogam field.

Dr. Gary Laursen was trained as a classical mycologist at Virginia Tech before coming to Alaska to begin his work in 1971 on the fungi of high-latitude environs. He joined the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1976 and currently is a senior research professor in the Institute of Arctic Biology. His affliction for mushroom studies has taken him throughout Alaska, the circumpolar Arctic, Subarctic, and the sub-Antarctic island archipelago. He lives in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Dr. Rodney D. Seppelt earned his PhD at the University of Melbourne, Australia, after completing his undergraduate and master of science degrees at the University of Adelaide, South Australia. He joined the Australian Antarctic Division in 1978, working on Australian and Subantarctic liverworts, mosses, and lichens. He has amassed a total of forty visits to Antarctica and the sub-Antarctic islands and ten seasons working in Alaska. He is affiliated with the University of Alaska Fairbanks through the Institute of Arctic Biology. He is also an accomplished botanical artist.
IN 1941, ANNA HARKER IS ATTACKED by an ax-wielding assailant in the gold-bearing ridges bordering the Alaska Range. It is this moment of savagery that propels the people of Wild Rivers, Wild Rose.

Anna's lover, Wade Daniels, learns of the deaths of Anna's husband and their worker, and he rushes to the hills to look for Anna and hunt the murderer. As she lies dying on the tundra, Anna relives the major events of her Alaska life while searching her memories for what could have led to the violence. Decades later, an outsider named Billie Sutherland steps into a community still haunted by the murders. Plagued by her own ghosts, Billie delves into the past, opening old wounds. In this gripping novel by Sarah Birdsall, lives are laid bare and secrets ring out in the resonant Alaska Range foothills.