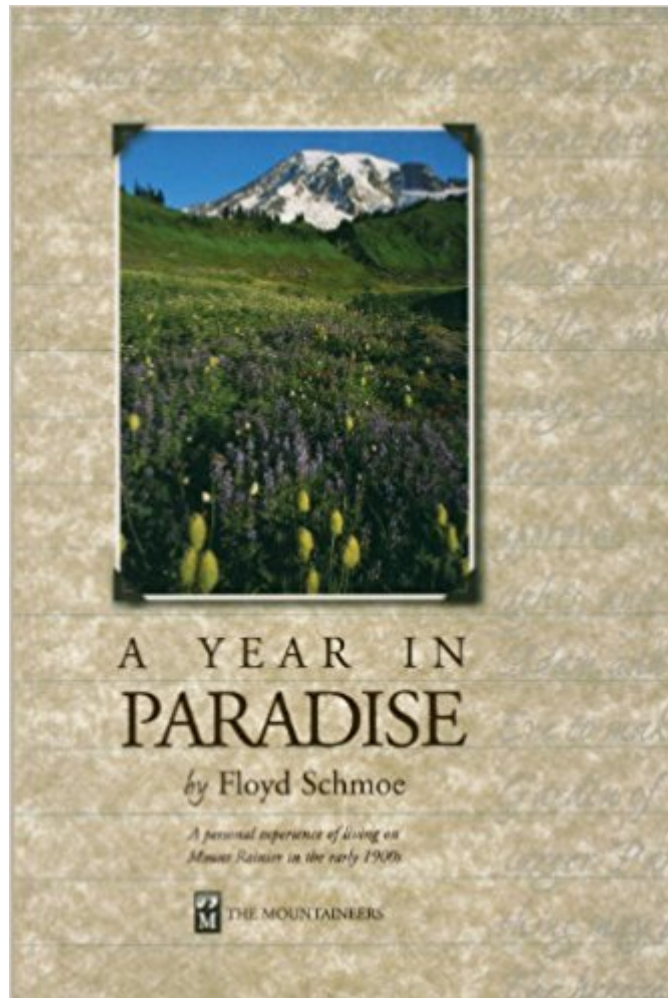




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A Year In Paradise



Synopsis

* An eloquently written story, laced with appreciations of the region's natural history* Includes historic photographs In midwinter 1920, Floyd Schmoe and his bride struggled up Mount Rainier on snowshoes on a long-delayed honeymoon. As the new caretakers at Paradise Inn, they would be alone in a towering world of snow and ice and incomparable beauty, until the plows arrived to free them on the fourth of July. So began a long love affair with Mount Rainier. And here is Floyd Schmoe's account of it; a delightful and informative portrait of a mountain through the seasons of the year. Through his personal narrative, Schmoe writes of many things that combined to cast a spell on him: the shy mountain goat, the reproductive processes of trees and plants, techniques of climbing, the habits of glaciers and volcanoes, the curious fact of a mouse being found at very high altitude, the peculiarities of tourists-and much more. This is a book for anyone drawn to the mysteries of the high country. The author was the first naturalist for Mount Rainier National Park and a two-time nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Those who know the Pacific Northwest will love this book for the way in which it puts in new dimensions the life of the meadows, cliffs, and ice fields on Mount Rainier. (Justice William O. Douglas)

In the centennial year of Mount Rainier National Park, The Mountaineers Books is pleased to bring this classic memoir back into print. Originally published in 1959, *A Year in Paradise* is author Floyd

Schmoe's portrait of Mount Rainier through the seasons of 1920. Schmoe's love affair with Rainier began during the winter he and his new bride spent caretaking Paradise Lodge, which was completely buried under the snow until the Fourth of July. His knowledge of natural history, his photographic talent, and his graceful writing combine to create a rich portrait of this beloved mountain. With 20 b&w photos and 30 illustrations.

I wish I could have lived even a day of the life Floyd Schmoe describes in this colorful and humble account of life on Mt. Rainier. As a relatively new resident to Western Washington, I bought this book as an attempt to acquaint myself with one of the regions best-known and best-loved landmarks. I was not disappointed. In fact, I was intrigued. In this four-seasons look at the life of a couple who lived year-round on an active volcano during the early 1900's (ie: 1920 and beyond), I was struck by how honestly every detail was described. This certainly is not a scientific book, nor is it an all-inclusive documentation of Mt. Rainier National Park, but it is a realistic one, one you might imagine your Grandfather sitting down to tell you over several weeks at the dinner table. Schmoe uses all of his resources to describe life on the mountain; he tells it through his own eyes, his wife's eyes, and the eyes of the visitors who crowded into the Inn every summer. He retells suspenseful stories of lost climbers and park staff, close encounters with bears and cougars, firsthand accounts of hiking the mountain, and large-scale bouts of inclement weather. But it's not all adventure and action. In fact, many of the most memorable parts of *A Year in Paradise* are those when Schmoe writes of being overcome by the beauty of wildflowers breaking through snow in spring or the determination of Rainier's smaller wildlife to survive over winter. He also writes about the sometimes-laughable domestic situations that can arise when humans try to play house on a real-life mountain. When all is said and done, you'll feel not only like you've read a book about the great outdoors, but about the inhabitants (humans, animals, and plants alike) that make it worthy of the name Paradise. Oh yes- and some added bonuses are the home photos and nature sketches throughout.

In the early '60s I was privileged to have spent 3 nights tent camping in the then existant camping ground at Paradise...and it truly was Paradise. My parents in one tent, my family (4 of us) in another and not another soul within sight or hearing. A year or so later I was transfered (U.S. Air Force) to Tacoma and spent four years viewing Mt. Rainier and spending many weekends in the Park. The book truly brought back a lot of memories.

Floyd Schmoe writes so well, you can feel the Chinook Wind in the spring and the aches in your legs snowshoeing from Longmire to Paradise Inn. He makes you feel like you are walking with him tramping along the Wonderland Trail or making a rock climb. It is made up of short chapters so it is easy to fit into a busy schedule but it is also hard to put down.. It makes a nice gift for anyone who likes the outdoors, especially Mt. Rainier.

A wonderful and evocative account of life at Mount Rainier as a park ranger and naturalist in the 1920s.

A well written and interesting book

a great book with wonderful memories. Thanks to the book seller

Descriptive, but very slow reading.

This is a great book that I read years ago and enjoyed. I wanted a copy for my library to read again. It was just as good the second time through.

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