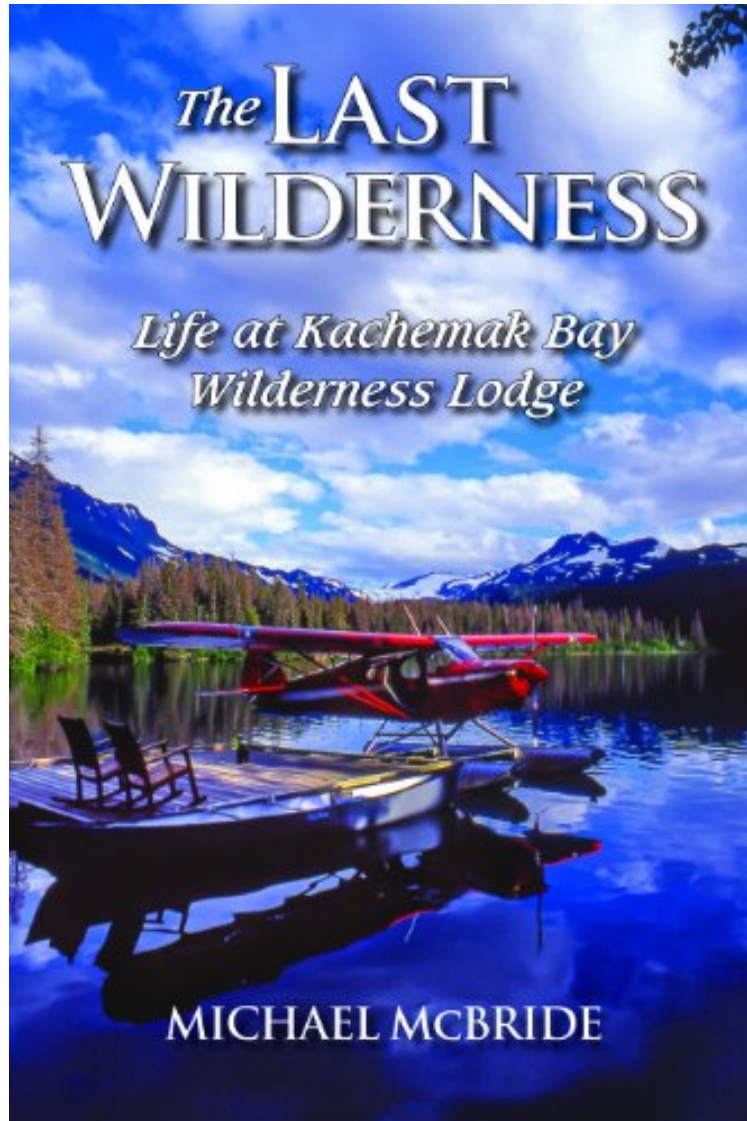


(Get free) The Last Wilderness: Alaska's Rugged Coast

The Last Wilderness: Alaska's Rugged Coast

Michael McBride

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Michael McBride : The Last Wilderness: Alaska's Rugged Coast before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Last Wilderness: Alaska's Rugged Coast:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. On the Edge of the Sea By Bob Osborne In The Last Wilderness: Alaska's Rugged Coast, Michael McBride shares his own story and that of his family. The memoir is also the story of Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge, which is situated across the eponymous bay at an angle from the town of Homer, Alaska. Homer is a thriving community that was discovered by artists, hippies and end-of-the-roaders in the 1960s.

Many of them never left. One of the colorful characters who found his way to Homer about forty years ago was Michael McBride. With his wife, Diane, he built a home and a guest lodge out of the raw maritime wilderness. The McBrides still operate Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge with the help of the next generation of their family. Michael is a passionate advocate for wilderness conservation and a compelling storyteller. All of his energy and enthusiasm was needed to survive, let alone thrive as he has done, in the maritime wilderness of Kachemak Bay. He and Diane had to learn on the job, living and learning in true pioneer fashion. They have had a rough, but enormously rich, life that shines through his storytelling. With these depths of personal accomplishment, it is all the more fitting that Michael never fails to thank the many friends who helped him along in the early years. He is equally sincere in honoring the history and traditions of First Peoples who inhabited the area that recent Eurocentric arrivals deemed to be a wilderness. Subsistence hunting and gathering yield a significant part of the McBride family's food resources, and Michael quotes a local aphorism that when the tide is out, the table is set. Kachemak Bay provides the McBrides with a plethora of clams, crabs, octopuses, sea urchins and other crustaceans, bivalves and, of course, fish. The Bay has some of the highest tides anywhere and the pools exposed by their ebbing contain a bountiful harvest. Anyone who has been to Michael's lodge, anyone who would like to, and anyone who just enjoys a good read about nature and the pioneer spirit, narrated by a master storyteller, should read this book.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.
Fascinating Story of Alaskan Adventure and Romance!
By Hannah Field
This novel magnificently portrays the idea that time means both nothing and everything when you live among the wildest flora and fauna. It is the journey of one man and his family, who builds a dream and makes the deepest of connections with the remote Alaskan wilderness. It shows both the beauty of human and nature co-existence and the often brutal consequences of life isolated from the comfort of other humans. It intertwines history of the native people, a deep romance, fascinating natural history and a deep-seated sense of adventure that can be found among so few. Such a great novel, even for those who are well-read in memoir and adventure writing!

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.
An inspirational look into a life well lived
By Abigail Stark
Ordered on Thursday via Prime, received it on Saturday, started reading on Monday and finished it this morning. An absolutely amazing tale of exploration, trial, hard work and a family that pushed to the edge of the unknown in a time when "ecotourism" wasn't yet a word. A groundbreaking story of entrepreneurship and business savvy in the establishment of Alaska's greatest Wilderness Lodge. An inspirational look into a life well lived. So many amazing moments in this concise and easy to read book. John Muir would be proud.

The Last Wilderness describes Mike and Diane McBride's remarkable journey as they built Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge. The stories convey the beauty, the joy and dangers of Alaska, the Natives they came to know and the settlers. Beautifully written with humor of stories of people and events, this is a book everyone who likes adventure or eco-travel should read.

From Publishers Weekly
In this engaging homespun memoir, Vietnam vet McBride recounts building a life for his family in an isolated yet cherished part of Alaska. McBride first fell for Alaska while stationed in Anchorage, so in 1969, he and his young bride, Diane, moved to China Poot Bay, where they became the first Caucasian settlers. There, the couple dined on moose, collected eggs on Gull Island, and moved into an abandoned cabin by Kachemak Bay, a salmon-rich inlet with a view of glaciers. They eventually transformed this area into a home for their two children and a renowned travel destination. Blazing miles of trails, they established a retreat where guests used cameras to shoot bears instead of guns. Within five years, Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge was a working business and McBride was on his way to becoming a master guide. From a labor of love that endured four decades, McBride carved a career as a leader in conservation. The endearing and thrilling book includes stories about a plane crash, struggles with local government, maps, and family photos. In today's technophile world, McBride's story is a refreshing testimony to how one man's vision helped to preserve a piece of paradise. Photos.

"An attractive aspect of the book is the appreciation and admiration for the wilderness of Alaska. The need to preserve it weaves through the book. Yet it is a rational approach to conservation, the approach of an independent thinker based on his personal observations. Through the McBride lodges, many visitors from near and far are experiencing the Alaskan wilderness and more will have an opportunity to do so through reading this book. I highly recommend it." Dr. Vera Alexander, University of Alaska-Fairbanks

"Michael McBride is a poetic missionary. His sensitivity to the world around him and appreciation of the gifts of Mother Nature are infectious. His love of Alaska and its wonders are beautifully expressed in this book. The Last Wilderness draws you in and keeps you there." Tim Ryan, NBC Sports

"Michael McBride's tale of adventure, courage, and high ideals is as striking as the flash of Northern Lights in the Alaskan sky. Just like those lights, his memoir is authentic and brilliant - the tale of a lifelong quest and a powerful dream made real." T.A. Baron, Author of The Merlin Saga

"In his book The Last Wilderness, Michael McBride passionately and vividly recounts the roots of his decades-long romance with Alaska. Interwoven with his passion for the land (and sea), the wild inhabitants, and the old-timers, is another love central to this story, his family. This book is a tribute to them all: the land, the wildlife, and the people." Bill Sherwonit, Author of Living with Wildness: An Alaska Odyssey

"This book is a tribute to life, family, and a man's love and commitment to preserving the wilderness not only in Alaska, but in the world. It is an eloquent

plea to all of us to recognize the need for saving the wilderness. But, the book is also a personal adventure story of an incredible man and his incredible family." David D. Goodenough, Founder of Goodenough Company, Inc."Michael McBride is a thinker, but he's also a doer, and what he's done could fill a book: this one. I've stayed at the Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge, spent time with Michael, enjoyed his wisdom, his stories, his song, his hospitality. These pages brought me right back to his side, right back to the fireside, right back to China Poot Bay, right back to paradise. Beautifully written, generous in spirit, even magnanimous, *The Last Wilderness* is a richly satisfying read. And it might just send you on your way to Alaska." Bill Roorbach, Author of *Life Among Giants*"Southern Alaska has a strong claim to the title of 'Best Remaining Place in the World.' And few have known it as intimately, as well-or as lovingly-as Michael McBride. Read his story, but don't just read it-go out and ground-truth what he says see for yourself what he means. Alaska is one of the few places that really needs you. And we need it. McBride's narrative explains why, and in doing so, it succeeds wonderfully." Carl Safina, Author of *Song for the Blue Ocean*"The charisma and energy that made Michael McBride an Alaskan outdoor legend flow through these pages like a school of salmon charging upstream, powered by the love and ecstatic joy that link him to his home shores of Kachemak Bay. If John Muir were alive today, this is how he would live and this is how he would write." Charles Wohlforth, Author of *The Fate of Nature*"The Last Wilderness combines natural history, adventure, poetry and environmental policy with the personal memoirs of a family that has lived a part of Alaska's past and present with fearless enthusiasm and passionate commitment to the values of conservation." Fran Ulmer, Former Lieutenant Governor of Alaska"McBride's book is a rhapsodic symphony celebrating his half century odyssey to create an idyllic family life in the Alaskan wilderness. There he began with virtually nothing and built a 'something' that is now a model of ecotourism. Open this work at any place and you are treated with a philosophy of the natural life that would be the envy of a John Burroughs or John Muir." Captain Dan Walsh, PhD, Oceanographer/Explorer"Michael McBride is the perfect person to chronicle this creative and loving relationship between human stewardship at its educational best with the beauty of wilderness at its most extraordinarily profound." Vernon D. Swaback, Author of *The Creative Community: Designing for Life*"Michael McBride gave his heart to Alaska half a century ago, and he fulfilled his dream in a remote spot of wilderness. Like an old-time pioneer, he was adept at survival, building his own lodge, becoming a bush pilot, raising a family. I read of his joyful struggles with greatest admiration as with compassion he describes his life, that of the local peoples and the wild animals. And he never relents in his fight to protect Alaska's beauty." George Schaller, Author of *Tibet Wild*"I am impressed by how Michael has been able to combine business development with concepts of environmental protection in his work. It is incumbent on each one of us think about the environment in our day-to-day lives, and what things we can do - big or small - to make the world a better place to live for our children. Michael's efforts in Kachemak Bay demonstrate this principle." Peter Gilruth, United Nations Environment Programme"A captivating account of decades in the Alaska wilderness as Michael and Diana McBride literally respond to the 'call of the wild'.destined to be not just an Alaskan classic but one of nature and wilderness writ large. A must for any Nature bookshelf." Tom Lovejoy, Founder of the Public Television series *NATURE*Its likely most of you have no realistic illusions of ever moving into the wilderness, but this book may inspire you to spend a few days or weeks in an isolated outpost of civilization someday, such as the Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge. - Jeff at hikinginthemokeys.comThe McBrides story conveys the beauty, joy, and dangers of Alaska and the people they came to know, and blends adventure, eco-travel and conservation.- Sierra Borealis, the newsletter of the Alaska Chapter of the Sierra Club