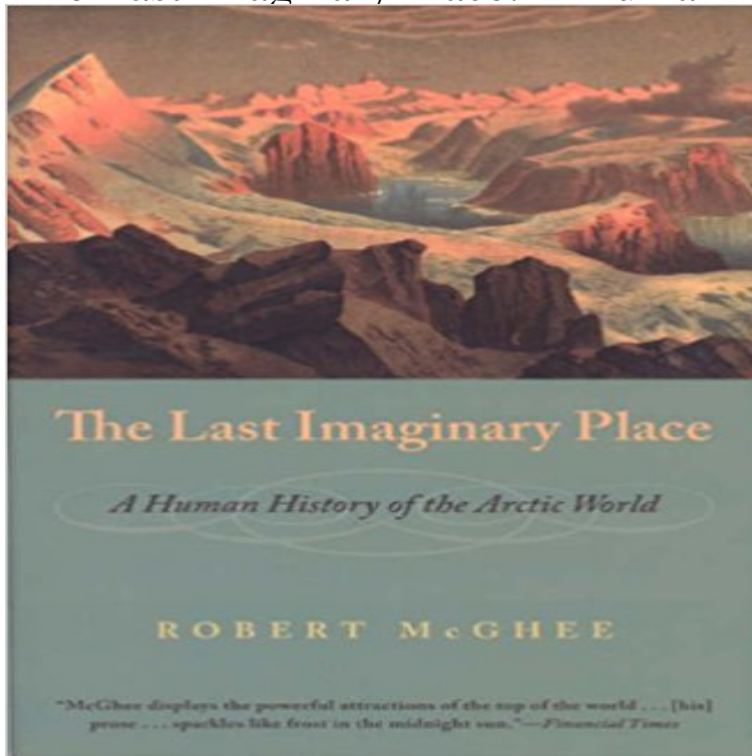


The Last Imaginary Place: A Human History of the Arctic World



The Arctic of towering icebergs and midnight sun, of flaming auroras and endless winter nights, has long provoked flights of the imagination. Now, in *The Last Imaginary Place*, renowned archeologist Robert McGhee lifts the veil to reveal the true Arctic world. Based on thirty years of work with native peoples of the Arctic and travel in the region, McGhee's account dispels notions of the frozen land as an exotic, remote world that exists apart from civilization. Between the frigid reality and lurid fantasy lies McGhee's true interest, the people who throughout human history have called the Arctic home. He paints a vivid portrait of Viking farmers, entrepreneurial Inuit, and Western explorers who have been seduced by the natural wealth and haunting beauty of this land. From lively accounts of fur trading, ivory hunting, and whaling to white-knuckle tales of the first, doomed expeditions, McGhee takes the reader on a whirlwind journey across this disorienting, dreamlike terrain that has fascinated mankind for centuries. In prose infused by his position as curator of Arctic archaeology at the Canadian Museum of Civilization which has taken him to sites in several countries McGhee demolishes some persistent illusions about the white North . . . evocative. *Times Literary Supplement* [A] compelling account . . . [McGhee] believes that the Arctic is not so much a region as a dream what he sees as a dream of a unique, attractive world . . . An archaeologist who has spent thirty years there, the author lets his love for the region shine through on every page. *Booklist* McGhee displays the powerful attractions of the top of the world . . . [his] prose . . . sparkles like frost in the midnight sun. *Financial Times* McGhee has written a sensitive, fascinating and extremely important book. *Canadian Geographic*

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