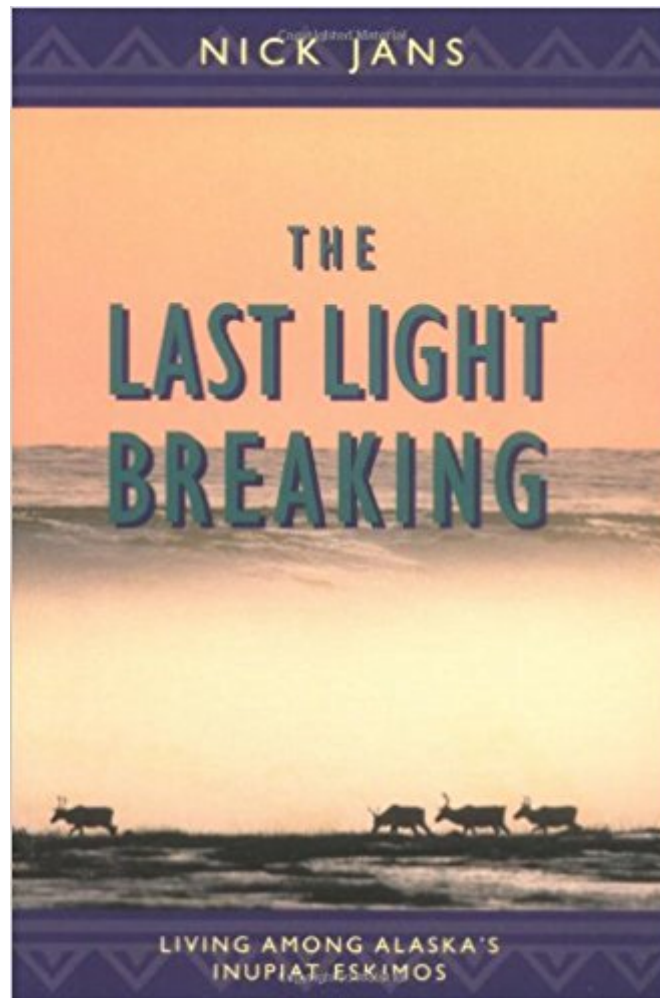




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The Last Light Breaking: Living Among Alaska's Inupiat Eskimos



Synopsis

From his home in remote Eskimo Village, Nick Jans leads us into a vast, magical world: Alaska's Brooks Range. Drawn from fourteen years of arctic experience, *The Last Light Breaking* offers a rare perspective on America's last great wilderness and its people--the Inupiat Natives, an ancient culture on the cusp of change. Making a poignant connection between the world he describes and the world of the Inupiat once knew, Nick Jans invokes with stunning power, the life of the Eskimos in the harsh arctic and the mystical aura of the wilderness of the far North. With the eye of an outdoorsman and the heart of a poet, Jans weaves together these 23 essays with strands of native American narrative, making vivid a place where wolves and grizzlies still roam free, hunters follow the caribou, and old women cast their nets in the dust as they have for countless generations. But looming on the horizon is the world of roads and modern technology; the future has already arrived in the form of stop signs, computers, and satellite dishes. Jans creates unforgettable images of a proud people facing an uncertain future, and of his own journey through this haunting timeless landscape.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The Last Light Breaking by Nick Jans A Phenomenal Work of Literary Artistry! I've read a number of books artfully crafted by Nick Jans - The Grizzly Maze and A Wolf Called Romeo - to name two of my favorites. I recently had the opportunity to read Nick's first book, *The Last Light Breaking*. I savored this journey into the lives of the Inupiat people of Ambler, Alaska - a people who, according to Jans, 'move within the eddy currents of

time, space and light where the laws of physics seem to float freely, compressing and expanding, refusing logic.' This book is an anthropological treasure. Yet it's much, much more than that. For the naturalist, the outdoors person, wildlife biologist and those who simply enjoy a damn fine artist (Jans) and the tales of his time in a place that most will never journey remotely close too it's a fantastic read! The characters, creatures, culture and challenges of living in a remote village like Ambler provide a wide and diverse audience with every element essential to invigorating the readers interest and a yearning to return to the volume to continue enjoying Jans literary artistry. Buy it. Savor it. Learn. Listen. Prepare to perceive the world around you in a unique and precious way."

•BillDahl.net

"A fresh wonderful new voice, all the more alive against the grave and ancient background of Inupiat tradition, wildlife, and the waiting landscape. I much admire The Last Light Breaking."

--- Peter Matthiessen, author of The Snow Leopard and At Play in the Fields of the Lord

With the eye of an outdoorsman and the heart of a poet, Jans weaves together the twenty-three essays of THE LAST LIGHT BREAKING with strands of Inupiat Eskimo narrative, making vivid the remote and wild arctic. Jans creates unforgettable images of a proud people facing an uncertain future, and of his own journey through this haunting, timeless landscape. Hailed as one of the best new books about Alaska when it was first released in 1993, THE LAST LIGHT BREAKING is now one of the classics of Alaska literature.

After 25 years I finally went back to University this year to complete an Anthropology Masters Program I started decades ago. I am focusing my thesis on the Inupiat in Anaktuvik Pass, Ak, and ordering as many books as I can on traditional Alaska. This book has a lot of anecdotal information even though it does not follow standard academic footnoting and sources. It is an excellent window into life in the northern regions of Alaska, and on the Inuit culture in general. Even if you are not in academia, but interested in how people survive in sub zero environments where they still rely on hunting caribou to exist, this is a good read. Not all of us choose to live in apartments and condos, and those who live in the Arctic tundra can teach most of us how to survive in a harsh region without modern conveniences. The book also deals with the loss of traditional values some of the small villages are facing now that snowmobiles have replaced dog teams and satellite TV and the internet are driving young people to cities never to return to their native villages. A good read from someone who knows his subject well. Charles, Front Royal, Va.

How did I enjoy reading *The Last Light Breaking*? First off, I looked for my map of Alaska. Where is Ambler? Where is the Kobuk river and Noatak Canyon? Where exactly is the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I tried to imagine what it would be like to visit such a place and to experience the beauty of this untouched wilderness. What a thrill would it be to watch a migration of caribou, grizzlies fishing in ancient rivers, and wolves hunting? It is not a place to visit by me or others, I thought, as it would destroy one of the last wild places on earth. Modern man has already left his ugly footprint. Can the caribou still travel their age old migration routes in future years? Will the voices of wolves still echo in the tundra? Or will the arctic Alaskan wilderness be lost to exploration and exploitation? Nick Jans takes you on a journey you will not forget. The book is elegantly written and enlightening. It deserves more than 5 stars!

This book reveals the courage of Alaska's native people.

This charming book of brief anecdotes and memories, gives a glimpse into the Eskimo culture that is very rare indeed. While today's young Eskimos apparently are losing their connection to their past and their culture, the author truly falls in love with the old ways in this very difficult environment. He is the visitor who never really leaves, and he is happy to share his vivid adventures.

A wonderfully adventuresome account of life few of us could ever hope to know. Beautifully written accounts of life among the NW Alaska Inupiat peoples and the wilderness where they lived; their history and their future.

I really enjoyed reading this book. If you have an interest in Alaska, then this is the book for you. It gives the reader an intimate look at the life of its native people and how their lives have changed.

Another great book by the author, My comments re this book are the same as I said in my review of *A Place beyond*.

It has been a while that I read the book, but enjoyed it very much. good story of how to grow old in the Arctic along with the natives. I think he was a good teacher and role model for the Children. Some exciting hunts with his friends and how not to get hurt in the wilds. Nick is a favorite of mine.

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