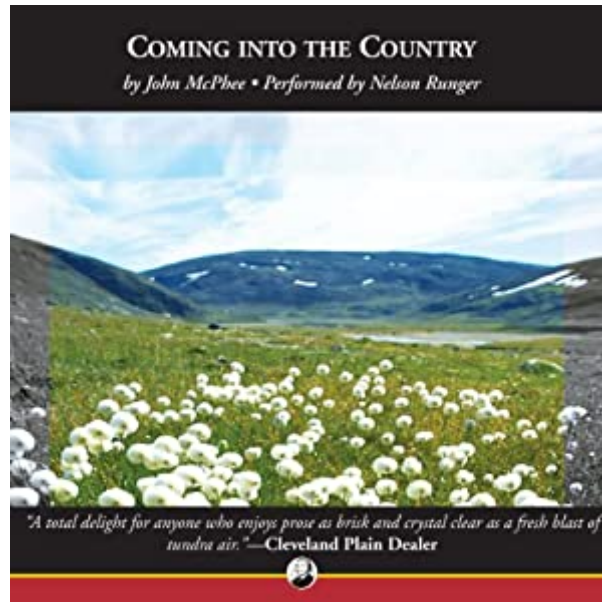




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# Coming Into The Country



## Synopsis

Those who have traveled into America's only remaining frontier rarely come back out the same. Only in Alaska can we come close to understanding what our forefathers must have felt upon their arrival in the New World. McPhee brings to this narrative the qualities that have distinguished him in the field of travel literature-tolerance, brisk, and entertaining prose, and a fascination with things most of us never bother to notice.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 16 hours 22 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Recorded Books

Audible.com Release Date: July 11, 2011

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B005C45DXS

Best Sellers Rank: #2 in Books > Travel > United States > Alaska > General #174

in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Travel #495 in Books > Travel > United States > West > Pacific

## Customer Reviews

This book was published in 1976 and provides a series of sometimes very entertaining vignettes about Alaska, its colonizers, the people who lived there, and provides interesting tips about how to survive in a hostile environment. The book does not provide an overall history of Alaska, spends much time discussing 1970s arguments of which city should become state capital, and obviously cannot address more recent problems such as effects of climate change. It also concentrates on the small eastern part of Alaska and barely mentions Denali or the more northern and western regions. Nevertheless, parts of this book are entertaining and I did finish it. The audio book accompaniment is excellent but cannot fix the rather dated and limited book itself. This is an ok book that does provide some nice stories. Therefore 3 stars.

Astonishingly detailed account of life in the nether regions of Alaska. The people and their lives on the periphery of settlements and of survival. I can't say that the author is melodic or wry or engaging

... more like someone who has been to the edge of endurance and is recounting how he got through day after day. In other words it borders on tedious , but it is a fascinating tedium and well worth the read.

Not about tectonics as I thought. My mistake. Detailed living in the wilderness so that I know I would NEVER want to do it. Wonderful enthralling read. Need a map with it. Book in great condition, and for once I didn't have to keep my dictionary next to me as I do with most McPhee. Fascinating writer.

This book was recommended to me by a friend. She told me the author does a great job of explaining Alaska; it's ecological balance, and the people in the bush and their ways of life. I like the author and book for the 3 distinct areas of discussion, including the attempts to move the Capitol from Juneau to somewhere, anywhere but Anchorage. This was a pleasant read and very educational for me from the lower 48. Excellent read!

Interesting interviews with Alaskans who have moved north and settled in a small remote city called Eagle. I have always thought Alaska was for those who can't get along in the lower 48. John McPhee confirms that notion with his travels and descriptions of some really weird people in Alaska. Not really what I had expected, but good. I like the book Alaska by Mitchner much more since it was a broader more general picture of the settlement of Alaska.

About one quarter of the book was readable, the rest was too incessantly detailed about the infrastructure of Alaska (in a non entertaining way). One of the few books that forced me to surrender.

The only reason this book doesn't rate five stars is because the middle section, "What They Were Hunting For" (about the search for a new state capital) is a bit dated and can't really measure up to the rest of the book. But the first section, "The Encircled River" is an amazing piece of prose. This book was written 30 years ago, and when I re-read "The Encircled River", I feel like I've been given the gift of seeing with my own eyes, what was then one of the last untouched wildernesses in the world. The final section, "Coming into the Country", is absolutely fascinating, a story of people who have sought out and continue to search for a life that few Americans could even begin to imagine. McPhee is one of the great writers of our time. He can take topics that I might otherwise

find dull, and transform them into page-turners. When given the subject of Alaska, he does better than that.

I live in Alaska and have had visited Eagle and Circle where much of the book takes place. The book was recommended by a few friends. I thought it was okay but it didn't hold my interest. It does give a pretty good picture of how some rugged individuals carve out a life in the wilderness.

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