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BOOK INFORMATION SHEET (7.17.24)

Author (as it should appear on the book): Gary Freeburg

Title: *A Hard Walk through Solitude*

Subtitle: *Living among Alaska's Volcanoes*

Partner: Published in association with the Center for the Study of Place

Distributor: Casemate/IPM

Book pages: 208

Number and type of illustrations: 1 book cover, 2 historic photos, and 35 graphite drawings and 67 photographs by the author (56 color and 11 black-and-white) = 105 illustrations

Trim size: 10 5/8" x 8.5" landscape/horizontal

List price: \$40.00

Discount: Trade

ISBN (book): 978-1-960521-03-3

ISBNs (electronic): TBD

Edition: Hardcover

E-book? TBD

Interactive e-book? TBD

Jacket: TBD

Edition size: 800

Publication date: October 2024

Advances due: September 2024

To warehouse: October 2024

Printed in: China

Bookstore categories (list three): Nature/Alaska (National Parks)/Art and Photography

Audience: Anyone interested in Alaska; anyone interested in wilderness and national parks; anyone who appreciates great art, photography, and inspired storytelling.

Selling points (list three): (1) Freeburg is among the world's best-known photographers and artists of Alaska's wilderness areas; (2) his stories of encounters in the wild will resonate with readers who love nature writing; and (3) anyone interested in the land and life of Alaska and its national parks, preserves, and natural monuments.

Tagline: A truly unique meditation on being among Earth's wildest and most remote places—Alaska's volcanoes!

Description of the work:

The volcanoes on the Alaska Peninsula and the fifty-seven volcanoes that project into the Aleutian Islands form the northern rim of the Pacific Ring of Fire. Many are in Alaska's national parks, monuments, and preserves. They continue to erupt, creating new Earth surfaces, and the deposits of lava, pumice, and ash ejected by these volcanoes create primeval ground: a true wilderness where few people on Earth other than volcanologists have traversed.

Gary Freeburg has wandered and lived among Alaska's volcanoes for regular periods during the past three decades. The volcanoes he visits are alive and in some cases still steaming, and its lands are coarse and free of distraction: a vacuum of emptiness that embraces solitude and silence stirred only by the winds that blow and the rains that fall. The Earth surfaces that he walks are hard and largely barren of plant life, except where surfaces are shielded by the wind or are near water sources. There, new life returns in the form of lichen and tiny plants and insects and animals—bees, bear, fox, mayflies, and Alaskan hares—taking their rightful place in these vast, remote national parks, monuments, and preserves, reminding us that they are signs of hope that Earth will continue to evolve, regenerate, and renew itself long after we humans are gone.

Freeburg's writings, photographs, and drawings reflect what it is like to seek solitude and live among Alaska's wild volcanoes. His travels were mostly solo treks in which he was flown in with supplies, a camera, sketchbooks, and journal to share his thoughts and artistically render his experiences. Each day spent in Alaska's volcanic wilderness affirmed the importance of this place for the author and those who can only dream of such a place. His book seems to explain: how fortunate it is to have magical places and national parks like Alaska's volcanoes, how fortunate we are to be alive on this magnificent Earth.

Blurbs:

[TC]

About the Author:

Gary Freeburg lived and worked in Alaska for twenty-five years and served as a professor of art at the University of Alaska's Kenai Peninsula College, where he directed the art program and served as the curator in the campus art gallery that now bears his name. He then became a professor of art and the director of Sawhill Gallery at James Madison University before retiring in 2018. Freeburg has been with and studied under renowned photographers and educators such as Ansel Adams, Oliver Gagliani, and John Schultz, and his photographs have been exhibited nationally and appeared in *Under Northern Lights, Writers and Artists View the Alaskan Landscape* and *Looking North* (University of Washington Press, 1998; 2000). He has received an Individual Artist Fellowship Grant from the Alaska State Council on the Arts, Anchorage; an honorary degree

for his contribution to the visual arts from Alaska Pacific University, Anchorage; and an Art Educator of the Year Award in Higher Education from the Alaska Art Education Association. He was recognized by the Getty Center for Education in the Arts for his art advocacy work in Alaska and Washington, D.C., and a documentary film by George C. Johnson, *An Artist's Journey to the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes: The Photography of Gary Freeburg*, serves as a capstone to Freeburg's photographic work in the wilderness of Alaska. His previous book is *The Valley of 10,000 Smokes: Revisiting Alaska's Sublime* (George F. Thompson Publishing, 2012).