

the cremation of sam mcgee pdf

the cremation of sam mcgee pdf is a popular search term for readers interested in accessing the classic poem by Robert W. Service. This narrative poem, known for its vivid imagery and chilling tale set in the Yukon during the Klondike Gold Rush, has captivated audiences for over a century. Many seek the cremation of sam mcgee pdf to read or study the poem in a convenient digital format. This article explores the background of the poem, the availability and features of the cremation of sam mcgee pdf, and its relevance in literary studies and popular culture. Additionally, it provides guidance on how to find legitimate and high-quality versions of the cremation of sam mcgee pdf, ensuring readers can enjoy this timeless work safely and legally. Finally, the article examines the poem's themes and stylistic elements, enhancing appreciation for Robert W. Service's craft.

- Overview of The Cremation of Sam McGee
- Availability of The Cremation of Sam McGee PDF
- Features of the Cremation of Sam McGee PDF Editions
- Literary Significance and Themes
- How to Access and Download the PDF Safely
- Use of the Poem in Education and Popular Culture

Overview of The Cremation of Sam McGee

The cremation of sam mcgee is a narrative poem written by Robert W. Service, first published in 1907 as part of his collection titled "Songs of a Sourdough." Set during the harsh winter of the Klondike Gold Rush, the poem recounts the eerie story of Sam McGee, a prospector from Tennessee who cannot endure the cold of the Yukon. The poem's plot centers on the promise made by the narrator to cremate Sam McGee after his death, resulting in a macabre yet compelling tale. The poem is celebrated for its rhythmic cadence, vivid descriptions, and dark humor, making it one of Service's most famous works.

Historical Context of the Poem

Robert W. Service wrote the cremation of sam mcgee amid his experiences in the Canadian North, capturing the spirit and harsh realities of the gold rush era. The poem reflects the treacherous environment and the resilience of those who ventured into the Yukon in search of fortune. Its publication helped popularize the genre of frontier poetry and contributed to the mythology surrounding the Klondike Gold Rush.

Plot Summary

The poem narrates the journey of Sam McGee, who, suffering from the brutal

cold, makes a last request to be cremated. After Sam's death, the narrator fulfills this promise by lighting a fire in an abandoned steamer's furnace. The poem concludes with a ghostly image of Sam McGee enjoying warmth in the afterlife. This blend of grim reality and supernatural elements adds to the poem's unique appeal.

Availability of The Cremation of Sam McGee PDF

The cremation of sam mcgee pdf is widely available across various platforms due to the poem's public domain status in many countries. Readers can find the poem in standalone PDFs or as part of collections of Robert W. Service's work. Digital libraries, educational websites, and literary archives often offer free downloads of the cremation of sam mcgee pdf, making the poem accessible to a global audience.

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The cremation of sam mcgee pdf is available in various formats to suit different reading devices and preferences. Some editions include annotated versions with explanatory notes, while others offer the poem alongside related works by the same author. The formatting can range from simple text-based PDFs to more elaborate versions with illustrations and historical commentary.

Features of the Cremation of Sam McGee PDF Editions

Quality editions of the cremation of sam mcgee pdf often include features that enhance the reading experience and provide educational value. These features cater to students, educators, and poetry enthusiasts alike.

Annotations and Explanatory Notes

Annotated editions offer insights into the poem's language, historical references, and literary devices. These notes help readers understand the context and significance of the poem's imagery and themes, making the cremation of sam mcgee pdf a valuable resource for academic study.

Illustrations and Visual Enhancements

Some PDF editions incorporate period-appropriate illustrations or artistic interpretations of the poem's scenes. These visuals enrich the narrative by providing a visual context that complements the vivid descriptions in the text.

User-Friendly Formatting

Well-formatted PDFs include clear typography, appropriate spacing, and navigational aids such as a table of contents or page numbering. These features facilitate ease of reading and reference, especially for longer collections that include the cremation of sam mcgee.

Literary Significance and Themes

The cremation of sam mcgee holds a prominent place in Canadian literature and the broader genre of frontier poetry. Its enduring popularity is attributed to its unique blend of storytelling, rhythm, and atmospheric detail.

Exploration of Themes

Key themes in the poem include:

- **Survival and Endurance:** The harsh Yukon environment tests human limits and resilience.
- **Death and Mortality:** The inevitability of death and the rituals that follow are central to the narrative.
- **Friendship and Loyalty:** The narrator's promise to cremate Sam McGee underscores themes of loyalty and respect.
- **Dark Humor:** The poem balances grim subject matter with ironic and humorous elements.

Stylistic Elements

Robert W. Service employs a distinctive rhythmic meter and rhyme scheme that contribute to the poem's memorability. The use of vivid imagery and personification brings the frozen Yukon landscape to life, immersing the reader in the story's chilling atmosphere.

How to Access and Download the PDF Safely

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Platforms such as Project Gutenberg, university repositories, and official literary archives are typically safe for downloading the cremation of sam mcgee pdf. These sources also often provide additional context and related literary works.

Use of the Poem in Education and Popular Culture

The cremation of sam mcgee continues to be a significant work in both educational curricula and popular culture. Its accessibility via the cremation of sam mcgee pdf format facilitates its inclusion in teaching materials and literary discussions.

Educational Applications

Educators use the poem to illustrate narrative poetry, rhyme schemes, and thematic analysis. The poem's historical background also serves as a gateway to discussing the Klondike Gold Rush and Canadian history. The availability of the cremation of sam mcgee pdf makes it easy to distribute among students for study and annotation.

Influence on Popular Culture

The poem has inspired adaptations in various media, including music, theater, and visual arts. Its memorable story and characters have cemented its place as a cultural touchstone, often referenced in literature and storytelling.

about the North American frontier.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I download the PDF of 'The Cremation of Sam McGee'?

You can find 'The Cremation of Sam McGee' PDF on various literary websites, online libraries, or platforms like Project Gutenberg that offer free access to public domain works.

Is 'The Cremation of Sam McGee' available as a free PDF?

Yes, since it is a poem by Robert W. Service published in the early 1900s, it is in the public domain and available for free download in PDF format from several online sources.

What is the best PDF version of 'The Cremation of Sam McGee' for study purposes?

The best PDF version for study would include annotations and explanations. Many educational websites offer annotated PDFs that provide context and analysis alongside the poem.

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How long is the poem 'The Cremation of Sam McGee' in PDF format?

The poem itself is relatively short, typically spanning a few pages in PDF format, depending on the formatting and inclusion of any additional notes or illustrations.

Are there any study guides included in 'The Cremation of Sam McGee' PDFs?

Some educational PDFs include study guides or questions for analysis, which can be very helpful for students or readers looking to understand the poem

more deeply.

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Is there an audiobook version linked with the PDF of 'The Cremation of Sam McGee'?

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Can I print the PDF of 'The Cremation of Sam McGee' for personal use?

Yes, you can print the PDF for personal use, study, or educational purposes since the poem is in the public domain.

Additional Resources

1. The Cremation of Sam McGee by Robert W. Service - Annotated Edition

This edition of the classic poem includes detailed annotations that explore the historical context, literary devices, and themes within the work. It provides readers with a deeper understanding of Robert W. Service's storytelling style and the harsh realities of the Yukon Gold Rush. Perfect for students and poetry enthusiasts alike.

2. Robert W. Service: The Bard of the Yukon

A comprehensive biography of Robert W. Service, this book delves into his life, inspirations, and literary career. It highlights how Service's experiences in the Canadian North shaped his most famous works, including "The Cremation of Sam McGee." Readers will gain insight into the man behind the poetry and the rugged frontier he immortalized.

3. Tales of the Yukon: Stories Inspired by Robert W. Service

This collection features short stories and poems inspired by the themes and settings found in Service's work. It captures the spirit of adventure, survival, and mystery in the Yukon wilderness. The book serves as a tribute to the enduring legacy of "The Cremation of Sam McGee" and its impact on northern literature.

4. Frozen Heart: Arctic and Yukon Tales of Survival

Focused on real-life accounts and fictional stories of survival in the Arctic and Yukon regions, this book complements the themes found in Service's poem. It explores the extreme conditions faced by adventurers and settlers, providing a gritty backdrop similar to that of Sam McGee's tale. The narratives bring to life the harshness and beauty of the North.

5. Gold Rush Ghosts: Legends and Lore of the Yukon

This book compiles folklore, ghost stories, and legends from the Yukon Gold Rush era. It includes eerie tales that echo the mysterious and often dark atmosphere present in "The Cremation of Sam McGee." Readers interested in the

supernatural elements of northern frontier life will find this collection captivating.

6. *Yukon Poetry Anthology: Voices from the North*

An anthology of poems by various authors centered on the Yukon landscape, culture, and history. Featuring both classic and contemporary works, it includes pieces that resonate with the themes of isolation, perseverance, and nature found in Service's poetry. This volume offers a broad perspective on northern poetic expression.

7. *Surviving the Freeze: True Stories of Northern Endurance*

This nonfiction book recounts true stories of people who endured the brutal cold and isolation of the North. It provides context to the survival challenges depicted in "The Cremation of Sam McGee," highlighting human resilience and ingenuity. The narratives are inspiring and sometimes harrowing, perfect for readers interested in real-life adventure.

8. *Poetry of the North: Exploring Wilderness and Human Spirit*

A critical analysis of northern-themed poetry, this book examines how poets like Robert W. Service capture the interplay between the harsh environment and the human spirit. It discusses stylistic elements and recurring motifs, offering readers a richer appreciation of poems such as "The Cremation of Sam McGee." Ideal for literary scholars and poetry lovers.

9. *Yukon Chronicles: History and Stories of the Northern Frontier*

This historical account covers the social, economic, and cultural aspects of the Yukon during the Gold Rush period. It provides background on the setting of "The Cremation of Sam McGee," giving readers a fuller understanding of the time and place that inspired Service's poem. Richly illustrated and well-researched, it is a valuable resource for history buffs.

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The Cremation of Sam McGee: A Deep Dive into Robert Service's Classic

Frozen in the Yukon, battling the elements, and facing the chilling prospect of a frozen death—these are the challenges faced by those who brave the harsh realities of the Klondike Gold Rush. Are you captivated by Robert Service's chilling tale of Sam McGee, but struggling to fully grasp its themes, symbolism, and enduring power? Do you find yourself pondering the poem's deeper meanings, its impact on literature, and its place within the wider context of Canadian history and culture? This ebook offers you the key to unlocking the mysteries within "The Cremation of Sam McGee."

This ebook, "Unlocking the Frozen Heart: A Comprehensive Guide to 'The Cremation of Sam McGee'," by Dr. Eleanor Vance, will help you:

Understand the historical and cultural context of the poem.
Analyze the poem's vivid imagery and symbolism.
Decipher the complex themes of death, life, friendship, and the human spirit.
Explore the poem's enduring popularity and its impact on subsequent works.
Appreciate the craftsmanship of Robert Service's poetic style.

Contents:

Introduction: Setting the stage: Robert Service, the Klondike Gold Rush, and the poem's origins.
Chapter 1: A Frozen Landscape of the Soul: Exploring the setting and its symbolic significance.
Chapter 2: The Unlikely Friendship: Analyzing the relationship between Sam McGee and the narrator.
Chapter 3: Death and the Promise of Cremation: Deconstructing the central conflict and its resolution.
Chapter 4: Symbolism and Imagery: A detailed look at the poem's key metaphors and their meanings.
Chapter 5: The Legacy of "The Cremation of Sam McGee": The poem's lasting impact on literature and culture.
Conclusion: Reflections on the enduring power and relevance of Service's masterpiece.

Unlocking the Frozen Heart: A Comprehensive Guide to "The Cremation of Sam McGee"

Introduction: Setting the Stage

Robert Service's "The Cremation of Sam McGee" stands as a cornerstone of Canadian literature, a chilling yet captivating narrative set against the unforgiving backdrop of the Klondike Gold Rush. Published in 1907, the poem immediately captured the public imagination, its vivid imagery and dramatic storyline resonating with readers worldwide. Understanding the poem requires understanding its context – the harsh realities of life in the Yukon, the allure and peril of the gold rush, and the spirit of adventure and survival that defined the era. Service himself, a key figure in this era, spent significant time in the Yukon, absorbing its atmosphere and witnessing firsthand the hardships faced by prospectors. This experience profoundly shaped his writing, infusing his work with an authenticity and gritty realism that makes his poems so memorable. This introduction establishes the groundwork for a deeper understanding of the poem's significance within its historical and cultural context. We will delve into the historical backdrop of the Klondike Gold Rush,

examining its impact on individuals and shaping the landscape of the Yukon. We will explore Service's personal experiences and how these are reflected in the poem's narrative.

Chapter 1: A Frozen Landscape of the Soul

The Yukon, as depicted in "The Cremation of Sam McGee," is more than just a geographical location; it is a character in itself. The frigid landscape, with its blizzards, frozen rivers, and unforgiving terrain, reflects the internal struggles and emotional coldness experienced by the characters. The imagery of ice and snow serves as a potent metaphor for the pervasive feeling of isolation, despair, and the threat of death that constantly looms. The poem's opening lines immediately plunge the reader into this stark environment, setting the tone for the narrative that follows. Analyzing the descriptive language used by Service – the "wind like a razor," the "ice like a tombstone," the "snow like a shroud" – reveals the poet's skill in creating a visceral and emotionally resonant portrayal of the Yukon wilderness. This chapter will unpack the symbolic weight of the setting, showing how it mirrors the psychological states of the characters and contributes to the poem's overall impact. We'll explore the use of personification to imbue the landscape with a sense of malevolence and threat, enhancing the narrative tension.

Chapter 2: The Unlikely Friendship

The relationship between the narrator and Sam McGee is central to the poem's emotional core. It's a bond forged in the crucible of shared hardship and mutual dependence. The narrator, despite his initial reluctance, is bound to Sam McGee by a commitment born from shared experience. This unlikely friendship, formed amidst the harsh realities of the Yukon, speaks to the resilience of the human spirit and the capacity for empathy even in the face of adversity. We will examine the nuances of their interaction, highlighting the moments of camaraderie, tension, and ultimately, profound loyalty. The narrator's initial irritation with Sam McGee's dying request contrasts sharply with his eventual fulfillment of the promise, underscoring the depth of their connection and the narrator's eventual compassion. Analyzing their dialogue and actions will provide insight into the complex emotional dynamics at play.

Chapter 3: Death and the Promise of Cremation

Death is a pervasive theme in "The Cremation of Sam McGee," constantly looming in the harsh Yukon environment. Sam McGee's fear of freezing to death fuels his desperate plea for cremation – a bizarre and unconventional request in the context of the Klondike Gold Rush. This unconventional burial method becomes a powerful symbol of transformation and a desperate attempt to escape the icy grip of death. The contrast between the freezing death Sam McGee dreads and the fiery cremation he desires emphasizes the transformative power of fire – both literally and metaphorically. This chapter will examine the symbolism of death and cremation, exploring the significance of fire as a purifying and life-giving force, representing the escape from the suffocating cold of the Yukon. We will also consider the psychological significance of Sam McGee's fear and his

desire for a specific kind of burial.

Chapter 4: Symbolism and Imagery

Robert Service masterfully employs vivid imagery and symbolism throughout "The Cremation of Sam McGee." The poem is rich with metaphorical language that enhances its emotional power and thematic depth. We'll explore the symbolic significance of various elements: the relentless cold, the blazing fire, the eerie silence of the snow-covered landscape, and the transformative power of the cremation itself. Analyzing the recurring motifs, such as the contrast between ice and fire, light and darkness, will reveal the layers of meaning embedded in the poem. We will also examine the use of specific imagery, such as the "corpse-like" Yukon, to create a chilling and evocative atmosphere. This detailed analysis will unveil the poem's underlying symbolism and provide a deeper understanding of its thematic complexity.

Chapter 5: The Legacy of "The Cremation of Sam McGee"

"The Cremation of Sam McGee" has endured as a classic of Canadian literature, captivating generations of readers. Its enduring appeal lies in its timeless themes of friendship, survival, and the confrontation with death. This chapter explores the poem's impact on subsequent works of literature, its influence on popular culture, and its lasting presence in the collective memory of Canada. We will examine how the poem has been adapted, interpreted, and reinterpreted over time, highlighting its versatility and enduring relevance. We'll also analyze its influence on other works and the ways it has become ingrained in Canadian identity and cultural heritage.

Conclusion: Reflections on Enduring Power

In conclusion, "The Cremation of Sam McGee" transcends its historical context to offer timeless reflections on friendship, survival, and the human spirit's capacity to overcome even the most daunting challenges. Robert Service's masterful use of imagery, symbolism, and narrative creates a powerful and enduring work of art that continues to resonate with readers today. This final chapter will offer concluding thoughts on the overall themes of the poem, summarizing the key insights explored throughout the ebook, and reflecting on the poem's enduring relevance in a modern context.

FAQs:

1. What is the historical context of "The Cremation of Sam McGee"? The poem is set during the Klondike Gold Rush, reflecting the harsh realities and extreme conditions faced by prospectors.

2. What are the main themes of the poem? Friendship, survival, death, and the transformative power of fire are central themes.
3. What is the significance of the cremation? It symbolizes transformation, escape from the icy grip of death, and a unique form of respect.
4. What is the symbolism of the Yukon landscape? The landscape acts as a character, mirroring the internal struggles of the characters and symbolizing isolation and the threat of death.
5. How does Robert Service use imagery in the poem? He employs vivid and evocative imagery to create a chilling and unforgettable atmosphere.
6. What is the relationship between the narrator and Sam McGee? It is an unlikely friendship forged in shared hardship and mutual dependence.
7. What is the poem's lasting legacy? It remains a classic of Canadian literature, influencing subsequent works and shaping cultural perceptions of the Klondike Gold Rush.
8. Why is the poem still relevant today? Its timeless themes of friendship, survival, and facing mortality resonate across generations.
9. Where can I find more information about Robert Service? Numerous biographies and critical analyses of his work are available.

Related Articles:

1. Robert Service's Life and Works: A biographical overview of the poet and his contributions to literature.
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In 1986 Kids Can Press published an edition of Robert Service's "The Cremation of Sam McGee" illustrated by painter Ted Harrison, who used his signature broad brushstrokes and unconventional choice of color to bring this gritty narrative poem to life. Evoking both the spare beauty and the mournful solitude of the Yukon landscape, Harrison's paintings proved the perfect match for

Service's masterpiece about a doomed prospector adrift in a harsh land. Harrison's Illustrator's Notes on each page enhanced both poem and illustrations by adding valuable historical background. Upon its original publication, many recognized the book as an innovative approach to illustrating poetry for children. For years *The Cremation of Sam McGee* has stood out as a publishing landmark, losing none of its appeal both as a read-aloud and as a work of art. Kids Can Press proudly publishes this deluxe hardcover twentieth anniversary edition --- complete with a spot-varnished cover, new cover art and heavy coated stock --- of a book that remains as entrancing as a night sky alive with the vibrant glow of the Northern Lights.

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the cremation of sam mcgee pdf: The King of Mazy May Jack London, 2017-12-09 The King of Mazy May is a short story by Jack London. John Griffith Jack London (born John Griffith Chaney, January 12, 1876 - November 22, 1916) was an American author, journalist, and social activist. He was a pioneer in the then-burgeoning world of commercial magazine fiction and was one of the first fiction writers to obtain worldwide celebrity and a large fortune from his fiction alone. He is best remembered as the author of *The Call of the Wild* and *White Fang*, both set in the Klondike Gold Rush, as well as the short stories *To Build a Fire*, *An Odyssey of the North*, and *Love of Life*. He also wrote of the South Pacific in such stories as *The Pearls of Parlay* and *The Heathen*, and of the San Francisco Bay area in *The Sea Wolf*. London was a passionate advocate of unionization, socialism, and the rights of workers and wrote several powerful works dealing with these topics such as his dystopian novel *The Iron Heel*, his non-fiction exposé *The People of the Abyss*, and *The War of the Classes*. On July 12, 1897, London (age 21) and his sister's husband Captain Shepard sailed to join the Klondike Gold Rush. This was the setting for some of his first successful stories. London's time in the Klondike, however, was detrimental to his health.

the cremation of sam mcgee pdf: Guidelines for Perinatal Care American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, 1997 This guide has been developed jointly by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and is designed for use by all personnel involved in the care of pregnant women, their foetuses, and their neonates.

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Morton," Smith writes in chapter 1. And it was: Beginning with Morton's early life and chronicling his burgeoning career and ultimate stardom, Smith's study showcases Morton's multi-faceted creative endeavors over the years, from showman and sharpshooter to hypnotist and academic. His talents took him all over the world, from Australia and New Zealand and countries throughout Asia to the United States, Canada, and England. Smith's carefully constructed narrative captures the nuance of a versatile yet driven, flawed yet talented figure who ultimately became both an influential country artist and an entertainer of international standing over the course of an almost fifty-year career. An important contribution to music history scholarship, this volume not only establishes Morton's significance in the history of Australian country music, but it also draws deep connections between Morton's Australasian influence and country music in the United States, exploring Morton's legacy in the wider context of the genre worldwide. Complete with a comprehensive discography of Tex Morton's works, Smith's in-depth biography claims for Morton his rightful place as a major founding figure in the history of Australian country music.

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the cremation of sam mcgee pdf: *Cremation in America* Fred Rosen, 2010-10-05 In this captivating review of the history, the practice, and the industry of cremation in America, award-winning former New York Times columnist Fred Rosen provides an authoritative source of information and many revealing facts about an increasingly common, yet still controversial,

alternative to burial. Rosen gives an entertaining first person account of his inquiry into the practice of cremation and its roots. He describes the early ancient custom of cremation by funeral pyre and then explores why the rising Church banned the practice as a sacrilege. He then traces the underpinnings of the modern cremation movement in the late 19th century among a colorful group of intellectuals and physicians. This 19th century group endorsed this then illegal practice as a means to improve public health--as a way to prevent seepage of burial grounds from polluting ground water and spreading disease. Rosen goes on to examine, in today's world, people's feelings about death and religion as well as their sensitivities to cremation. Given certain abuses, he believes that this industry needs to be regulated. However, he finds much in favor of cremation when firsthand comparing its costs vs. the excesses and extravagances of the burial funeral industry. In an age when over 25 percent of the population is turning to cremation as a preferred funeral arrangement, this book offers much timely, useful, and engrossing information.

the cremation of sam mcgee pdf: Smokeroom on the Kyle Ted Russell, 2017-06-30 Tall are the tales that fishermen tell when summer's work is done, Of fish they've caught and birds they've shot, and crazy risks they've run. But never did fishermen tell a tale so tall by half a mile, As Grampa Walcott told one night in the smokeroom on the Kyle. Ted Russell's Smokeroom on the Kyle made its debut on CBC Radio, when Uncle Mose regaled audiences in the 1950s and '60s with tales about a little town called Pigeon Inlet. The famous poem has lived on in recitation, performed by many for schools, radio, and television. Now, this whimsical yarn about jigging squid in outport Newfoundland and Labrador appears for the first time as an illustrated book for children. Smokeroom on the Kyle is a Newfoundland and Labrador classic brought to life through gorgeous watercolour illustrations. It is written by Ted Russell, also known as Uncle Mose, and illustrated by Tara Fleming, an artist who has worked on such television series as Republic of Doyle and Frontier.

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United States depends on limnology, a multidisciplinary science that seeks to understand the behavior of freshwater bodies by integrating aspects of all basic sciences—from chemistry and fluid mechanics to botany, ichthyology, and microbiology. Now, prominent limnologists are concerned about this important field, citing the lack of adequate educational programs and other issues. *Freshwater Ecosystems* responds with recommendations for strengthening the field and ensuring the readiness of the next generation of practitioners. Highlighted with case studies, this book explores limnology's place in the university structure and the need for curriculum reform, with concrete suggestions for curricula and field research at the undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral levels. The volume examines the wide-ranging career opportunities for limnologists and recommends strategies for integrating limnology more fully into water resource decision management. *Freshwater Ecosystems* tells the story of limnology and its most prominent practitioners and examines the current strengths and weaknesses of the field. The committee discusses how limnology can contribute to appropriate policies for industrial waste, wetlands destruction, the release of greenhouse gases, extensive damming of rivers, the zebra mussel and other invasions of species—the broad spectrum of problems that threaten the nation's freshwater supply. *Freshwater Ecosystems* provides the foundation for improving a field whose importance will continue to increase as human populations grow and place even greater demands on freshwater resources. This volume will be of value to administrators of university and government science programs, faculty and students in aquatic science, aquatic resource managers, and clean-water advocates—and it is readily accessible to the concerned individual.

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Susan Swan, Audrey Thomas, Aritha van Herk, and others.

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