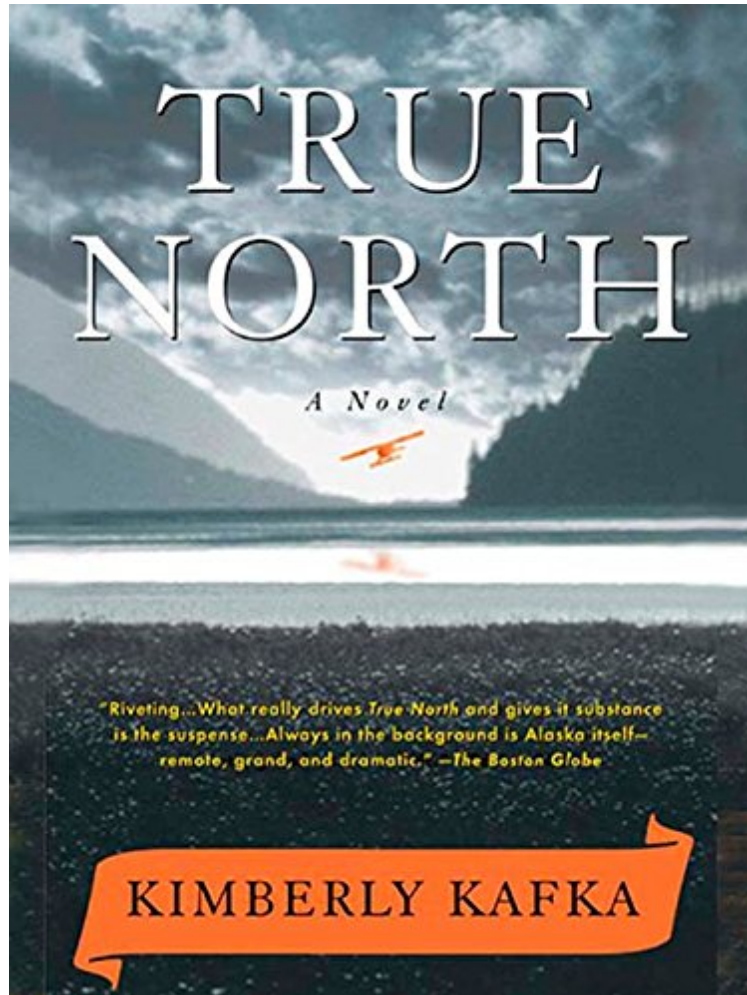


## True North

Von Kimberly Kafka

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**Von Kimberly Kafka : True North** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised True North:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Well doneVon D. C. CarradA pleasant surprise from an author described on the jacket as a workshop-ista and ittybittymagazine-nik. Real people, real countryside, real action. A glimpse into a little-known and faxcinating part of American. The author has a smooth prose style, the kind that is so transparent it makes you forget you are reading for a while, and only in retrospect do you realize how well this book is written -- the way it ought to be. Another pleasant surprise: Not all the natives are environmentally sensitive Alan Alda in sealskin types, there are some well-delineated nasty native villains in here as well. Minor drawback: A key bit of the plot was far too contrived (no one would dig a root cellar with a lid overhead; you can't hold a strong person down with a mere 4 nails; kicking upward would have

been the obvious and effective choice). (This criticism doesn't give away the ending or anything critical to enjoying the book -- I don't write that kind of review). This is minor; all-in-all, a very good read.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Alaskan Adventure! Von Ein Kunde True North is a great read! It is a very well-written gritty thriller. Bailey, the main character of the book is a woman who due to past pain wants to live as solitary a life as possible in the Alaskan wilderness. Events intercede forcing her to emerge from her solitude. This novel draws you in. Its pace accelerating as Bailey finds her carefully structured and safe life coming apart. Kafka's descriptions of the wilderness are vivid and lyrical. She makes me want to go to Alaska and see the landscape she described so well. Her characters are equally vivid, three-dimensional and well-drawn. While you are sitting in the comfort of your favorite chair, sans clouds of mosquitoes, - Thank goodness- this book will transport you to Alaska and into the experiences of a woman who finds out that you can't hide from life. It's a book I highly recommend. I look forward to her next. She's an author to watch.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Fascinating story Von Ein Kunde I heard this book read on NPR's Radio Reader, while I was in Alaska fishing the Bristol Bay Salmon run. I didn't get to finish the story, so have ordered my own copy of the book. I liked what I heard, I found it somewhat ironic to be slapping mosquitos while listening to the people in the story being tormented by them, as well. Kafka does a great job of creating characters so three-dimensional that their personalities pop out of the story even through the voice of Dick Estell. The settings and the people in this story come across as authentic "bush" Alaska, which, by the way, is very different from "the outback". (Isn't that a steak house?)

**Kurzbeschreibung** For six years Bailey Lockhart has lived alone in the Alaskan bush, supporting herself from the cockpit of a floatplane. She is the only white woman in a land owned by the local Ingalik tribe; her closest neighbor is a fellow bush pilot and activist named Kash. Bailey and Kash are drawn to each other, but their fiercely independent natures keep them apart. When two Easterners hire Bailey to pilot them into the bush, a series of events is set in motion that will upset the delicate racial balance of the land and lead to violence. As the truth behind the couple's arrival becomes apparent, the refuge Bailey has created for herself shatters. Forced to face the demons of her unresolved past, she is given a chance to free herself at last from the secret that haunts her. Marked by spare, resonant prose and imbued with an indelible sense of place, True North tells a powerful story of adventure and survival. It is a welcome debut by a gifted new voice in literary fiction. From Publishers Weekly Serious issues such as Native land rights and self-government, racism and environmentalism are among the topics Kafka tackles in her atmospheric, tightly wrought debut novel. Bailey Lockhart is a bush pilot in Alaska-- "Places other people could not reach. She wanted that"--where she has lived on her own since she fled Maine five years earlier in the wake of tragedy. She is the only non-Native in the area, which is run by the Native American Ingalik tribe. The closest village to Bailey's camp is 80 miles down river. It is governed by Kash, "the Yukon's most eligible bachelor since his wife's death," who is also a Dartmouth-educated Ingalik activist and attracted to Bailey. Although she tries to disguise it, she too is drawn to Kash, but a secret in her past keeps her from letting anyone get too close. When Zach, a furniture builder, and Alpha, an elementary school teacher, come to Alaska from urban Maine on the pretext of a wilderness adventure (they are really searching for gold), they hire Bailey to pilot them into a remote area. The outsiders act as the catalyst for violence and emotional disclosure. The villagers' dislike of non-Natives who seem to threaten the indigenous way of life comes to a boil when a lecherous and violent drunk named Match expresses his aggressive resentment in increasingly dangerous ways. The suspense culminates in an action-packed extended scene featuring the hallmarks of prime time TV--a death by bear mauling, a surprise discovery and one romantic consummation. Kafka, an emergency wilderness medical technician, sometimes overwrites the drama, but she excels in integrating wilderness lore, descriptions of the natural landscape and insight into the harsh lives of people who brave the territory. (Mar.) FYI: The author is a direct descendant of Franz Kafka. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal This is an accomplished first novel that is part adventure story about surviving in the breathtaking but unforgiving Alaskan wilds, part love story, and part political novel about the exploitation of Native American Ingaliks and their land. Set on a reservation in Alaska, Kafka's protagonist, Bailey Lockhart, is a young woman from Maine who has recently lost her beloved sister, a severely handicapped young woman who died in a house-fire while under her care. Bailey has come to Alaska to lose herself, to commune with nature--and to forget. Strong, self-reliant, and sharp-tongued, Bailey wants only to be left alone. Events conspire against her, however, and she finds herself drawn into the middle of an ugly conflict involving a young Anglo couple from the east and gold found on Native soil. With great skill, Kafka dramatizes Bailey's heroic involvement in this conflict and the gradual healing of her troubled heart. Recommended for all libraries.-Patrick Sullivan, Manchester Community Coll., Canterbury, CT Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.