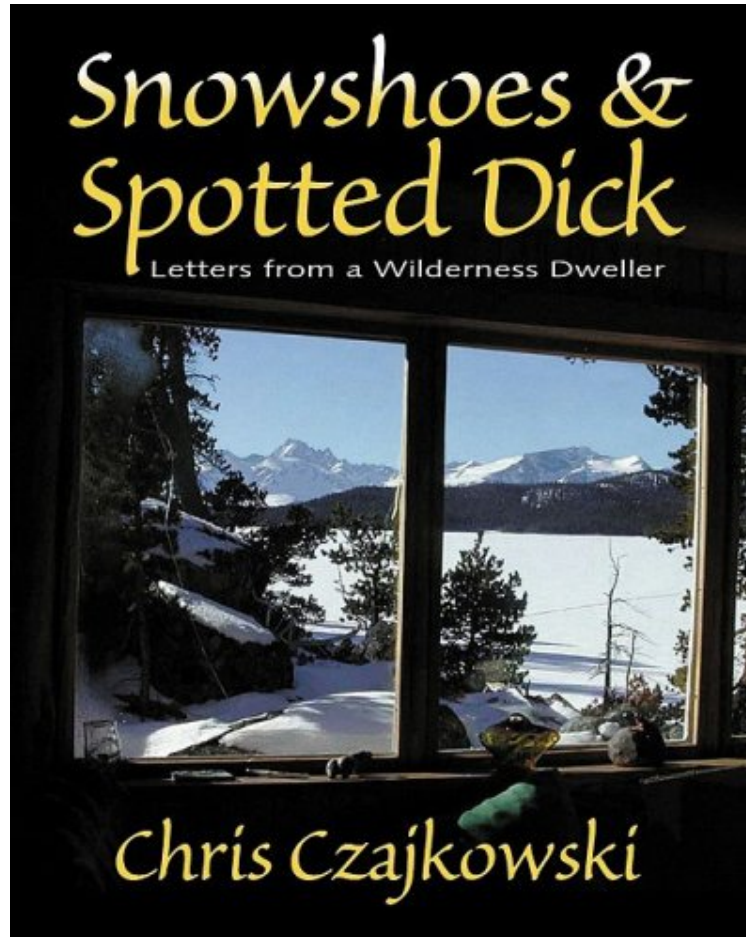


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## Snowshoes and Spotted Dick: Letters from a Wilderness Dweller

*Chris Czajkowski*

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**Chris Czajkowski : Snowshoes and Spotted Dick: Letters from a Wilderness Dweller** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Snowshoes and Spotted Dick: Letters from a Wilderness Dweller:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The good stories come from within. By zorisfriendI've always dreamt of living in a small log home, somewhere still untouched. This wonderful book, which reads almost as a diary, made me feel like I was already there. And a welcome visitor to this place, as well. Chris Czajkowski will bring you along on her journey to create a home in the wilds of Canada, and introduce you to the many friends that have come into her life along the way. Yet there were also stretches of long solitude in such a remote place, which she has endured through writing. With plenty of photographs and drawings to highlight each chapter, (and even a recipe for 'spotted dick' at the end!), it quickly became one of my favorite books.

Chris Czajkowski chose to build her life and small ecotourism business on the shore of a high-altitude lake near the

southern tip of Tweedsmuir Provincial Park. It is a formidable landscape of lake-dotted alpine plateaus abutting the glacier-swathed backbone of the central Coast Range. Snowshoes and Spotted Dick describes Czajkowski's experiences as she builds her fourth cabin in the wilderness with hand tools, two chainsaws, an Alaskan Mill and some helpful friends. One of her helpers is Nick Berwain, a quiet but literary young German who corresponds with Czajkowski long after his return home. In these fascinating letters to Berwain, Czajkowski details her often solitary life: how she breaks trails by snowshoe with her two pack dogs, encounters grizzly bears, builds a custom stone oven and learns how to use it to bake bread -and spotted dick, a traditional English steamed pudding. The letters also chronicle Czajkowski's challenges and triumphs as she tries to finish her cabin. Food and building supplies must be flown in and Czajkowski must hike more than 30 kilometres to the nearest road to lead guiding trips and to attend craft fairs and book promotions to supplement her income. Lyrically written, Snowshoes and Spotted Dick provides a close look at a simpler way of life that most of us only dream about, one that cleaves to nature with beauty, resilience and independence.

"...The reader is drawn in by expressive language evoking in the imagination pictures of the breathtaking vistas, and natural surroundings...the added mystery of 'what is Spotted Dick?' is a cute grab..."-Dawn Burnett, The Canadian Field Naturalist"...Snowshoes and Spotted Dick is...an enthralling tale of nature and woman, ideas and excitement. In the process of reading this book, you'll meet a rather extraordinary woman and learn what it is really like to live in the true wilderness."-Dan Hays, Statesman Journal"One middle-aged woman living remotely amid several thousand square kilometres of largely uninhabited B.C. wilderness. Chris Czajkowski is exceptional to say the least."-Mike Youds, Daily News"Oh, and about the spotted dick? Czajkowski will only say it is something she feeds to her guests at Nuk Tessli. I can tell you it's a British food (otherwise she swore me to secrecy). For an exact definition, you'll have to read the book."-Susan Quinn, Comox Daily Record

About the Author Chris Czajkowski was born and raised in the north of England. She lived and worked in Uganda, New Zealand, the South Pacific and South America before settling in the remote reaches of British Columbia's Coast Range mountains, 480 kilometres north of Vancouver, where she created the Nuk Tessli Alpine Experience, an ecotourism business catering to hikers and naturalists. She has written ten books about her nearly thirty years of wilderness living, including Snowshoes and Spotted Dick: Letters from a Wilderness Dweller, A Mountain Year: Nature Diary of a Wilderness Dweller, A Wilderness Dweller's Cookbook: The Best Bread in the World and Other Recipes and most recently, Ginty's Ghost: A Wilderness Dweller's Dream.