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**ESSENTIAL**

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*Halldor Laxness*

**Independent People, An Epic**
1997, PAPER, 480 PAGES, $16.95
Rich in local color, this great mock-epic by the Icelandic Nobel Prize-winner features the indelible Bjartur of Summerhouses, a hard-headed, independent-minded sheep farmer. (Item ICL01)

*Terry G. Lacy*

**Ring of Seasons, Iceland, Its Culture and History**
1998, PAPER, 332 PAGES, $27.95
A longtime resident of Reykjavik, Lacy weaves tales of family life, anecdote, lore and history into this illuminating personal portrait of Iceland. (Item ICL03)

*Insight Guides*

**Insight Guide Iceland**
2014, PAPER, 352 PAGES, $23.99
This guide emphasizes culture and history, with wonderful photographs, maps and essays from experts. (Item ICL04)

**ALSO RECOMMENDED**

*Evan Sung (Photographer), Judy Eddy, Gunnar Gislason*

**North: The New Nordic Cuisine of Iceland**
2014, HARD COVER, 352 PAGES, $40.00
Catering to a rising interest in Nordic cuisine, this cookbook celebrates Iceland's food alongside its haunting landscapes, portrayed in starkly beautiful, full-color photos. (Item ICL67)

*Karen Oslund*

**Iceland Imagined**
2013, PAPER, 260 PAGES, $24.95
This cultural and environmental history explores the geography, literature, language, culture, politics and symbolism of Iceland, Greenland, northern Norway and the Faroe Islands. (Item ICL57)

*Michael Booth*

**The Almost Nearly Perfect People, Behind the Myth of the Scandinavian Utopia**
2016, PAPER, 400 PAGES, $17.00
Guardian journalist Booth writes with laugh-out-loud humor and brutal candor about the Scandinavians, mixing history and his own experiences in Nordic regions in this searing cultural portrait. (Item SCN83)

*Nancy Marie Brown*

**Song of the Vikings, Snorri and the Making of Norse Myths**
2014, PAPER, 256 PAGES, $17.99
Brown brings to life not just the great Norse tales of medieval Iceland but also the life and times of the worldly Icelandic chieftain, known as the “Homer of the North.” (Item ICL59)
Arnaldur Indridason

Jar City
2006, PAPER, 288 PAGES, $17.00
Indridason's first moody police procedural finds Reykjavik detective Erlendur Sveinsson investigating the brutal murder of a lonely pensioner and the man's connection to the deaths of a number of young women. Made into a darkly superb film. (Item ICL27)

Jeff Kanipe, Alexandra Witze

Island on Fire: The Extraordinary Story of a Forgotten Volcano That Changed the World
2015, PAPER, 224 PAGES, $16.95
Two science writers discuss the political and natural ramifications of the 1783 eruption of Iceland's largest volcano, Laki, which led to global death, famine and even revolution. (Item ICL73)

John McPhee

The Control of Nature
1989, PAPER, 272 PAGES, $16.00
In the classic McPhee tradition, these sparkling essays explore our generally feeble attempts to combat all-powerful nature, including valiant efforts by Icelanders to control the flow of a volcano across the harbor at Heimaey in the Westman Islands. (Item NAT01)

Tony Soper

The Arctic, A Guide to Coastal Wildlife
2012, PAPER, 160 PAGES, $23.99
An essential handbook for the ship-based traveler, this compact guide to the plants, marine mammals and birds of the Circumpolar North features handsome watercolor illustrations and lively text. (Item ARC85)

Jón Krakauer (Photographer), David Roberts

Iceland, Land of the Sagas
1998, PAPER, 160 PAGES, $28.00
Krakauer and colleague Roberts hike and climb around Iceland in this classic travel narrative, reissued as a paperback and featuring Krakauer's color photographs. The book interweaves the natural and cultural history of the island with the authors' own adventures. (Item ICL07)

Lawrence Millman, Paul Theroux (Introduction)

Last Places, A Journey in the North
2000, PAPER, 242 PAGES, $15.95
Millman explores the culture and history of the Faroes, Iceland and Greenland in this hilarious account of his travels in the wake of the ancient Vikings. (Item ARC54)

W.H. Auden

Letters from Iceland
2002, PAPER, 256 PAGES, $24.95
Written with fellow poet Louis MacNiece, this quirky, under-appreciated masterpiece captures the spirit of Iceland, its people and landscapes. (Item ICL49)

Bill Holm

The Windows of Brimnes, An American in Iceland
2008, PAPER, 216 PAGES, $15.00
In these provocative essays, Minnesotan Bill Holm writes about the fate of America from his fisherman's cottage on the shore of a creek in northern Iceland. (Item ICL63)

Brian Fitzgibbon (Translator), Anour Ava Olafsdottir

Butterflies in November
2014, PAPER, 296 PAGES, $15.00
Scorned by love, a quirky, unapologetically independent 33-year-old woman takes a spontaneous trip along Iceland's Ring Road, her best friend's 4-year-old deaf-mute son in tow. Evocative of the Icelandic spirit. (Item ICL74)

Dan Bortolotti, Yuichi Takasaka (Photographer)

Auroras, Fire in the Sky
2011, HARD COVER, 144 PAGES, $29.95
These 80 color photos by Yuichi Takasaka celebrate the beauty, history, folklore and science of the northern lights. (Item ARC304)

Jane Smiley (Editor), Robert Kellog (Introduction)

The Sagas of Icelanders
2001, PAPER, 848 PAGES, $27.00
Nine sagas and six tales composed between the years 1000 and 1500, including an account of Leif Eriksson's voyage to North America, all newly translated. (Item ICL13)