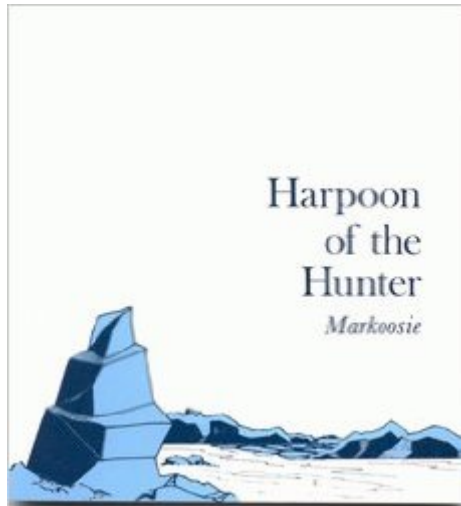


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# Harpoon Of The Hunter



## Synopsis

Based on an Inuit legend, *Harpoon of the Hunter* is a story of life in the old days, not as it appeared to southerners, but as it has survived in the memory of the Inuit themselves. Emerging from a largely oral tradition, it is the first novel by an Inuit written in English. Markoosie has the rare ability to capture the richness and imagery of the Inuit language in English.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 84 pages

Publisher: McGill-Queen's University Press (May 1, 1970)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0773501029

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Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 8 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #739,594 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #142 in [Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Natural Resources > Fisheries & Aquaculture](#) #860 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > United States > Native American](#) #1063 in [Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Oceans & Seas](#)

## Customer Reviews

While I think this was a good book, I would caution people to read it before choosing it for young children. It is a realistic portrayal of life, and death, in an arctic environment. There are a number of fairly graphic descriptions of people and animals dying and a general attitude of despair. However, it is an authentic piece of Eskimo fiction describing life in the Canadian Arctic before the coming of the white man. I would recommend this book to people who want a more realistic depiction of life than what Disney provides.

The story starts with a bear. A polar bear that attacks and kills some dogs for no reason. The men decide the bear has to be killed. And so starts the story full of adventure, action, death, and basic survival. A grim ending awaits those who read it. Or is it a peaceful one? All depends on how you look at it. Not sure young children should read it but it really depends on the parents. If you like this kind of story may I suggest *The Fast Runner (Atanarjuat)*?

I chose this rating because the ending was a little sad but it's true, it's what happens in life. If you can't accept that then you need to take a look at reality. This book, in my opinion, opens your eyes to what may happen in Alaska, or in the Arctic, or wherever. I would recommend this book to people who: Like adventure, are ready to face real life, and people who have an iron stomach. :D

I read "Harpoon of the Hunter" for a children's literature class, and I enjoyed it quite a bit. It's not a book that I would recommend to younger readers- not only because it really communicates in a strong, vivid manner the harshness and danger of Kamik's world, but also because there's a complexity to the way it deals with the themes of struggle and survival. The ending especially invites meaningful discussion, something that older readers may find more interesting. Mostly, however, the real treasure about the book, and what ultimately makes it satisfying, is how it is written. Plain, bare, simple words and style are appropriately chosen to convey the harsh, elemental nature of Kamik's struggle and world. In this way, Markoosie has written a book rich in atmosphere.

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