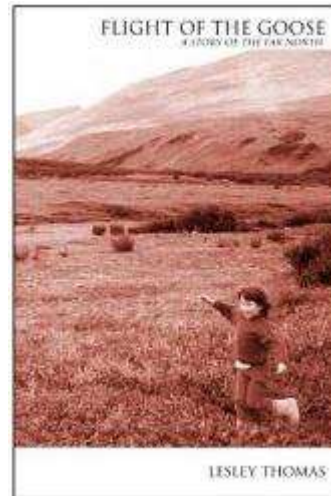


From the Anchorage Daily News

Reading the North

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Flight of the Goose: A Story of the Far North

By Lesley Thomas (Far Eastern Press, \$19.95)

The blurb: "An orphan traumatized by her past, Kayuqtuq Ugungoraseok seeks respect in her traditional Inupiat village through the outlawed path of shamanism. Her plan leads to tragedy when she interferes with scientist Leif Trygvesen, who has come to search the effects of oil spills on salt marshes -- and evade the draft. Told from both Kayuqtuq's and Leif's perspectives, 'Flight of the Goose' is a tale of cultural conflict, spiritual awakening, redemption and love in a time when things were, to use the phrase of an old Arctic shaman, 'no longer familiar.' "

Excerpt: "My mind wandered, and I moved the glasses over to watch cranes in the marsh. When I shifted back to camp, Polly was leaning in close. I quickly worked the focus -- she was kissing the birdman! ... She was sighing 'Oh Leif ,' and he closed his eyes in great pleasure, not caring at all that he was just another victory. ...

" 'He'll fall in love with Polly.'

"It hit me with a great paw, that idea, its talon puncturing my chest so the binoculars fell. All it would take would be sex -- she'd have his bibirak, he'd move in with Abe and Flo, and I'd do his laundry. But he was a birdman; it must not happen -- he was mine! I had to do something fast. I had to prevent it. But I couldn't run down and pull them apart like dogs!"