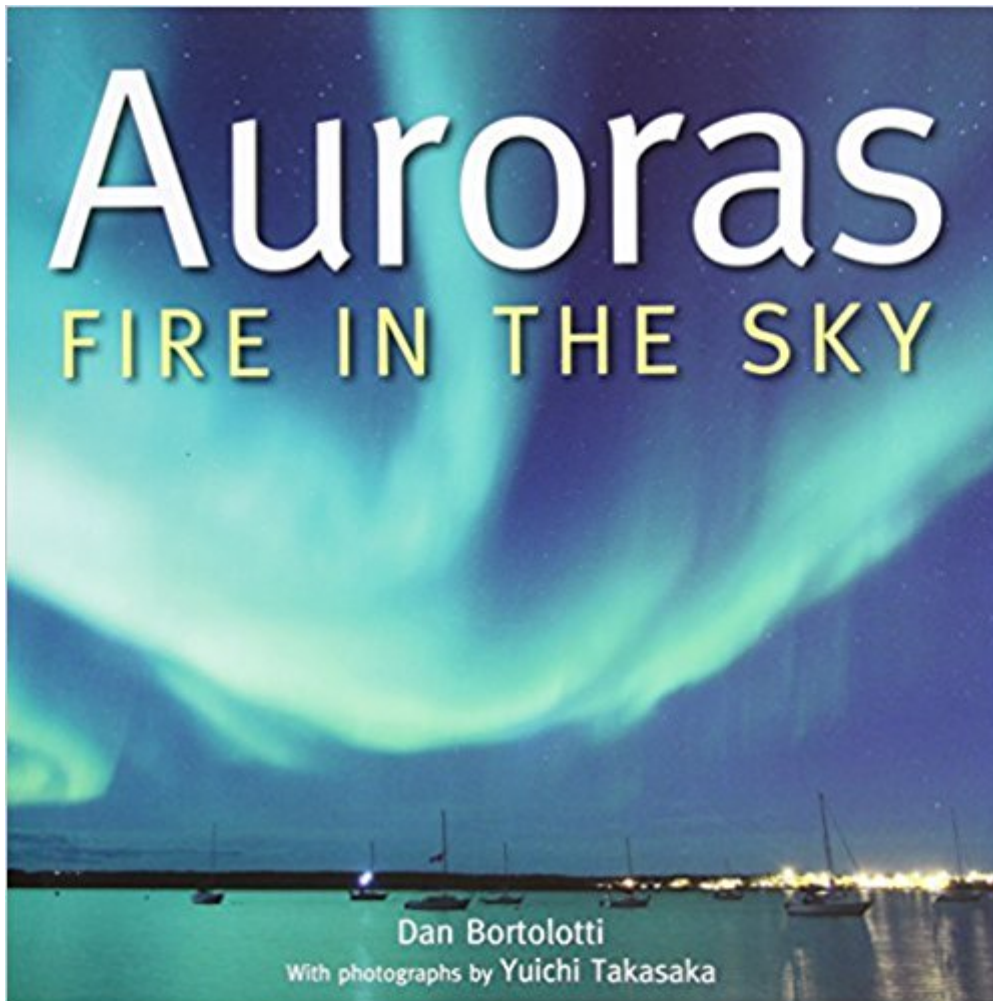




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## Auroras: Fire In The Sky



## Synopsis

A celebration of nature's spectacular light shows, and a visual feast documenting the kaleidoscopic colors that decorate the sky. For millennia, humans have been fascinated with the ghostly green and red curtains of light that shimmer across the heavens on dark, clear nights. Ancient peoples saw these displays as souls of the dead, the torches of the spirits and as harbingers of war. Barely 100 years ago, scientists finally learned that an aurora is created when the Earth's magnetic field is bombarded with charged particles from the sun. When the charged particles collide with oxygen in the atmosphere, auroras with yellows, greens and reds appear. Collisions with nitrogen result in bluish colors. However, our understanding of the physics behind auroras has not detracted from their wonder. Auroras is filled with 80 photographs of one of nature's greatest spectacles, complete with captions that reflect on the folklore, science and beauty of the northern lights. The book poses and answers the many scientific questions about auroras: Why are auroras usually seen only at high latitudes? How do scientists study them? What causes the different colors? Why are massive auroras often followed by blackouts and computer system crashes? Auroras is where cutting-edge science meets the stuff of dreams.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Bortolotti's well-written text explains the remarkable light spectacle and features over 100 colour-drenched images by noted aurora photographer Yuichi Takasaka. (Jodi DeLong Halifax Chronicle Herald 2011-12-18) The shimmering, swirling, ghostly glowing northern lights are pictured

here in multi-faceted glory; ideal if you want to see the Aurora Borealis without braving sub-zero temperatures late at night. This gorgeously produced book offers photos of rare red aurora, Aurora Australis (in the south), views from space and more. Brief front pages to each chapter and short captions under the photos cover history, science and folklore associated with the aurora. And if you are inspired to go out and see the magic for yourself, the last page has advice for you. (Gail Marchessault Winnipeg Free Press 2011-12-09) Stunning photos from photographer Yuichi Takasaka as well as some from NASA grace the pages of this beautiful coffee table book celebrating the auroras. The book has more photos than text, but what text is there covers a wide variety of topics, from basic descriptions of how auroras form and what determines their coloration to how they are linked with electrical blackouts and how ancient peoples explained the auroras' presence. The text is accessible to any reader, and some of the background and historical information may surprise even those who already know a lot about the mysterious sky lights. (Earth Magazine 2012-12-01)

Dan Bortolotti is a writer and editor whose work has appeared in many magazines, including *Equinox*, *Canadian Geographic* and *OWL*. He is the author of *Exploring Saturn*. Photographer and videographer Yuichi Takasaka emigrated from Japan more than 20 years ago in order to photograph wildlife in Canada's many national and provincial parks and World Heritage Sites.

Not only are the pictures visually compelling and stunning, the book itself is well made. High quality heavy glossy paper is used for the publication, with a plastic-laminated hardcover. The writing by Dan Bortolotti is informative and complements the astonishing pictures from Yuichi Takasaka. Northern lights has been studied and can now be explained in scientific terms. The aurora is produced by photons released from charged nitrogen and oxygen atoms originating from solar wind that have been directed toward Earth's poles via Earth's magnetic field. One cannot escape the feeling of awe that is inspired by this phenomenon. According to Takasaka, "My love of colours in nature led me to my love affair with the Aurora Borealis. These Lights became a part of my life."

Beautiful photographs for those who have and haven't seen the auroras before.

some of the best pictures of the NORTHERN LIGHTS. Beautiful produced photos and excellent

descriptions of the cause of the lights.

If you are fascinated by the Northern Lights while watching the latest Alaska Reality program this book is for you. A glimpse into the magical array of colors and the beauty of nature Alaska has to offer.

VERY GOOD.

Beautiful and interesting table top book.

Just beautifully done and informative. Divinely pleasant for the eyes and soul.

Stunning photography--this is the second copy I've purchased.

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