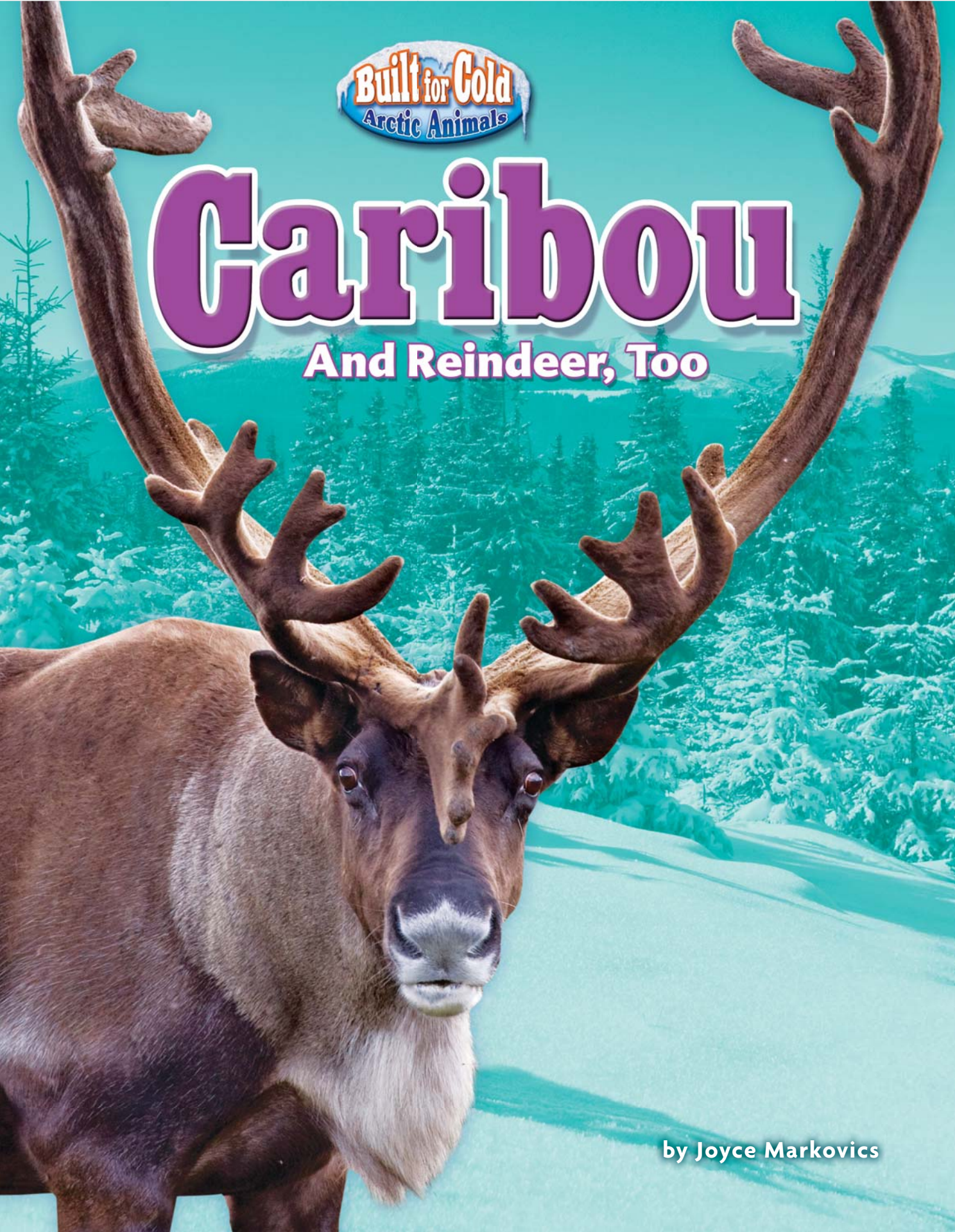




Caribou

And Reindeer, Too



by Joyce Markovics

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Consultant: Dr. Anne Gunn
Caribou Biologist

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Caribou!

The fog was thick on the Firth River in northern Canada in June 2001. From the tiny window of a cabin, **biologist** Karsten Heuer watched the riverbank. Through a break in the fog, he saw a group of seven grizzly bears that had gathered near the river. What were they doing? he wondered.

A grizzly bear in
northern Canada



A small group of caribou
walking through fog



Using binoculars, Karsten peered at one of the bears in the distance. Then something on the slope behind the bear moved. Karsten struggled to make out what it was. Soon after, something much larger moved. “Suddenly the whole slope was alive,” remembers Karsten. He finally realized what he was seeing. “Caribou!” he gasped.



The grizzly bears Karsten saw on the riverbank were waiting to attack and kill the caribou. In addition to bears, wolves and golden eagles hunt caribou.



Too Many to Count

At first, Karsten saw just a few hundred caribou. Then there were thousands winding through the valley. “Caribou dotted every hillside and the skyline,” remembers Karsten. They raced across the dark, rocky slopes, their **hooves** pounding the ground. The noise from their running sounded like thunder.

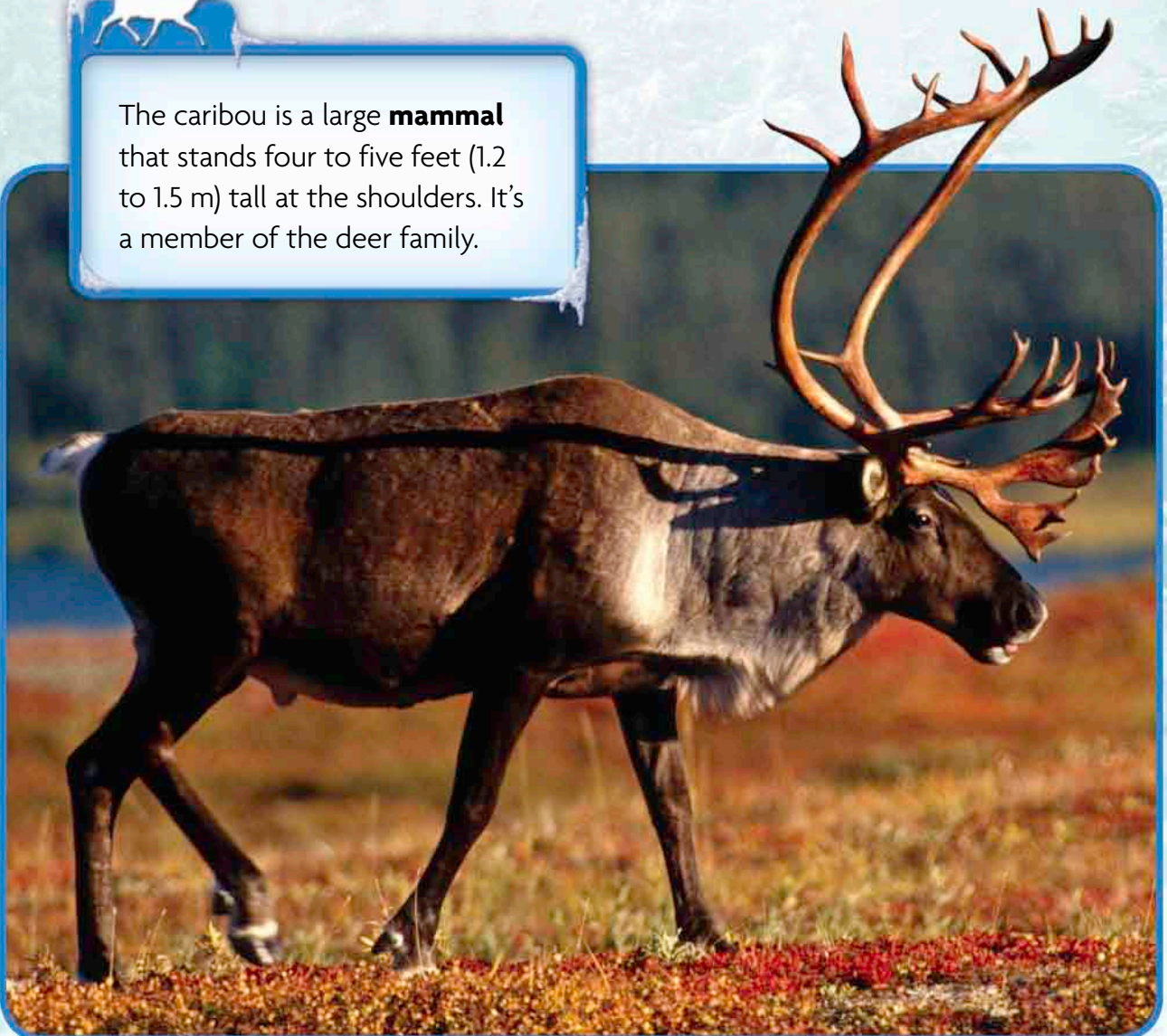
A group of caribou traveling through a valley



The next day Karsten wondered if he had imagined seeing the giant caribou **herd**. Had it all been a dream? Yet when he slipped his raft into the river, he saw the last few caribou moving out of the valley. Seeing the herd inspired Karsten to plan a trip to study them. He wanted to learn all about these animals and their struggle to survive in the **Arctic region**, one of the coldest places on Earth.



The caribou is a large **mammal** that stands four to five feet (1.2 to 1.5 m) tall at the shoulders. It's a member of the deer family.



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About the Author

Joyce Markovics is an editor, writer, and orchid collector. She lives with her husband, Adam, in New York City, far from the incredible roaming caribou of the frozen Arctic.

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Caribou

And Reindeer, Too

The fog was thick on the Firth River in northern Canada in June 2001. From the window of his cabin, biologist Karsten Heuer watched the riverbank. Through a break in the fog, he saw a group of seven grizzly bears gathered near the river. Then coming toward the river, he saw a much larger group of animals. "Caribou!" he gasped. Seeing the caribou made Karsten wonder how these large, hoofed animals were able to survive in one of the coldest places on Earth—the Arctic!

Look inside to find out about the incredible Arctic adventure that unfolded as Karsten and his wife, Leanne, decided to track these fast runners. You'll also discover how caribou are built to live in the freezing Arctic, how they protect themselves from enemies and raise their young—and how humans can help save them and their icy habitat.

Arctic Wolf
The High Arctic

Caribou
And Reindeer, Too

Polar Bear
Shrinking Ice

Sled Dog
Powerful Miracle

Walrus
Tusk, Tusk

Wolverine
Super Strong

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