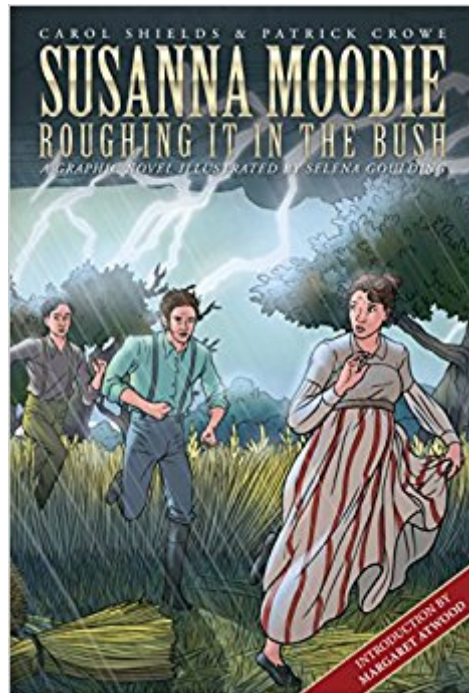




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# Susanna Moodie: Roughing It In The Bush



## Synopsis

A subject of fascination for writers like Margaret Atwood and Timothy Findley, Susanna Moodie was a Romantic writer from a celebrated literary family whose life changed forever when she and her husband embarked from England for the backwoods of Canada in 1832. Misled by land merchants, the Moodies discovered that settlement in Upper Canada was far from pastoral but rather a wild frontier. Utterly unprepared for pioneer life, they soon found themselves starving in a hostile wilderness. With her husband absent in the army during the 1837 Rebellions, Susanna began publishing her writing to feed and clothe her growing family. The result was the book *Roughing It in the Bush*—Moodie's aggravated and acerbic testament of pioneer life was praised in England but turned her into a controversial figure. Two centuries later she is now honored as an early feminist and literary pioneer. *Susanna Moodie: Roughing It in the Bush* brings the words of this controversial yet fascinating woman to life through the insightful writing of Carol Shields.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

**Gr 6 Up**—This fictionalized biography offers an introduction to the life of Susanna Moodie, a British writer who, along with her husband, traveled across the ocean in 1832 to start a new life as a pioneer in Canada. Arriving in this new land, the Moodies quickly realize that things are not as they anticipated: their fellow pioneers do not share their values, and making a living from the land is incredibly difficult. As she tries to survive in this harsh environment, Susanna deals with prejudice, hunger, and isolation, but she learns to accept help and friendship from those around her. Wanting

to make her fellow Europeans aware of the severe conditions experienced by settlers in Canada, Susanna writes a book called *Roughing It in the Bush*. Although the work is controversial, it gains her fame as a writer and allows her perspective to be widely known. This graphic novel provides a compelling account of life as a pioneer woman in 19th-century Canada, showing the tragedies and the joys, as well as the incredible culture shock, experienced by those who were used to a different way of life. The artwork is detailed and expressive, with color palettes changing to accurately represent the mood of each scene. An introduction by Margaret Atwood is included. VERDICT Purchase where graphic historical fiction and stories of pioneers are popular. — Sarah Reid, Four County Library System, NY

The experience is...now told again by acclaimed writer Carol Shields as a graphic novel to access a new audience. (City Parent 2016-05-05)...certainly one of the best graphic novels I have read. It will serve as a wonderful introduction to Susanna Moodie. (CM: Canadian Review of Materials 2016-06-03) --CM: Canadian Review of Materials...Susanna Moodie: *Roughing It in the Bush* is a brilliant story of fortitude and resolution that exposes the scars and charms of a life lived and a country born. (CanLit for Little Canadians 2016-06-14) --CanLit for Little CanadiansIt's a marvellously strange experience to see this time and setting in a graphic novel and in Susanna Moodie's own words... kids 10 and up would be fascinated by this glimpse of the beginnings of Canada. (CBC's The Next Chapter 2016-06-25) --CBC's The Next Chapter

Excellent! This graphic novel comes to us posthumously from a script Carol Shields had been working on. It's an excellent retelling of Susanna Moodie's diary of pioneering in Upper Canada approximately the late 1830s. Concentrating on the hardships and rough life faced by unsuspecting British women who had been promised a better life with their husbands living off the land in Canada. This graphic novel features the most devastating and poignant moments from Moodie's writings to portray the life of one of Canada's first best-selling authors. A most compelling read with wonderful illustrations this brings pioneering life to drastic reality. I've read the book by Moodie's sister, Catharine Parr Trail, the one that spurred Susanna to write the truth about the harsh land they found themselves trying to survive against, and this has made me more eager than ever to read Moodie's diary. An outstanding addition to Canadian graphic literature.

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