



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rutherford G. Montgomery is one of the most widely read and best-loved nature writers in America. He has written well over a hundred books and has more than thirty presently in print. His first Caxton book was *CARCAJOU*, a Junior Literary Guild selection published in 1936.

His latest, *PEKAN THE SHADOW*, is an authentic story of a fearless member of the weasel family, the fisher (1969). Scheduled for republication this year is *THE LIVING WILDERNESS*, a distillation of Montgomery's personal experiences with wildlife, a reca-

pitulation of the breadth and depth of his observations and knowledge of the wild creatures most of us seldom see—unless we look for them.

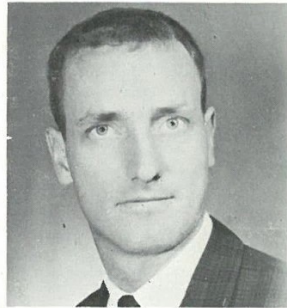
Many of Montgomery's stories have been made into movie and TV shows by Walt Disney Productions.

Montgomery spent his boyhood on ranches in North Dakota and Montana. At college he studied law, history, and English; and when the first World War broke out he enlisted as a machine gunner in the United States Army Air Corps and spent a year and a half in the service. At present he is living at Los Gatos, California, where he continues to write outstanding juvenile books.

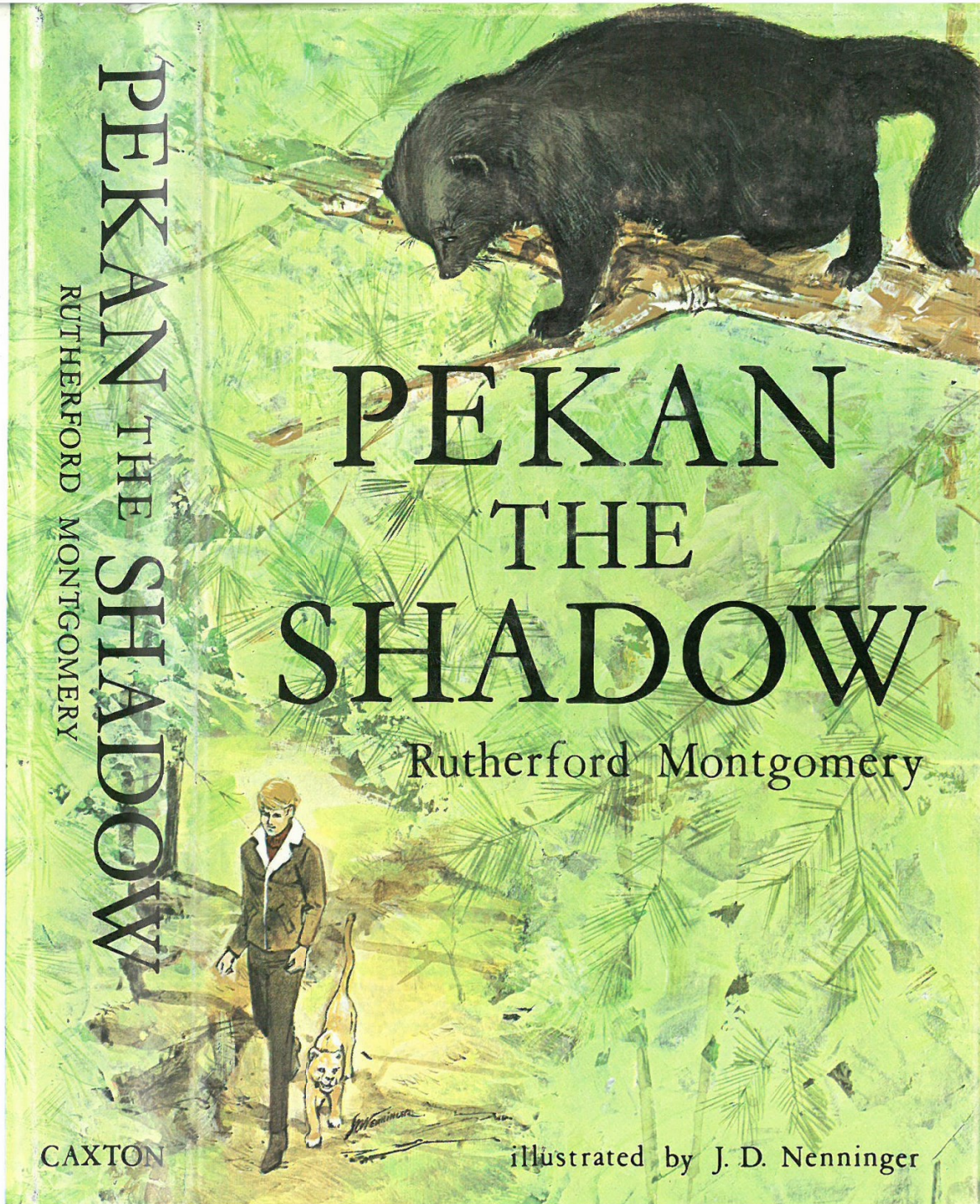
ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

The illustrations for *PEKAN THE SHADOW* were drawn by Jerome D. Nenninger, a painter, sculptor, and illustrator, currently a commercial artist of Portland, Oregon. He graduated from Washington University School of Fine Arts in St. Louis in 1964. He did additional sculpture study with Simon Ybarra of Clayton, Missouri. Nenninger works in all mediums. He specializes in animal portraits and wildlife drawings.

Billie and Jerry Nenninger enjoy camping, fishing, and photography, and the wildlife and scenery Oregon has to offer.



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PEKAN THE SHADOW is a wildlife story laid in the Rocky Mountains of the West. It is the story of a boy who believes that any wild creature, even a killer like the fisher, is entitled to live his life in the only way he knows, by hunting.

How to keep his friend the fisher from raiding his father's trapline poses a problem for young fourteen-year-old Terry Carter. For Pekan regards the trap baits of fresh meat as a good source of food in the deep winters when all wildlife battles for survival. He not only springs empty traps and eats the bait, but will devour any trapped animal he finds as well. Pekan survives both the deadly set gun and the snares with which Long Joe attempts to rid himself of his unwelcome trapline guest, and what Pekan learns provides Terry with a way of protecting his father's traps. Eventually a bond of friendship forms between Terry and Sheba, the pet cougar that he raised from a kitten, and Pekan the Shadow.

Jacket design by Jerome D. Nenninger



Pekan, the fisher, belongs to the weasel tribe, a brownish black animal weighing as much as twelve pounds or more. He is a part of a family of deadly killers — even an eight-ounce weasel is a bloodthirsty animal. In the tribe are found the mink, the pine marten, the fisher, and lastly the wolverine, largest of these animals. The fisher is second largest, weighing up to eighteen pounds, about as big as a kit fox and fastest of the clan. Faster than a red squirrel, it can outrun a snowshoe rabbit.

There is some controversy over the popular name — fisher. The fisher does not actually fish though it does relish fish and will eat any it can find stranded on shoals or dead on the banks. Its climbing ability and agility in treetops keep the fisher safe from cougars and wolves but not from trappers and hunters. The fisher is easy to spot in a tree and can be shot without any effort.