



Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the Endurance

By Jennifer Armstrong

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The harrowing story of the ill-fated Endurance, now in paperback.

In August 1914, Ernest Shackleton and 27 men sailed from England in an attempt to become the first team of explorers to cross Antarctica from one side to the other. Five months later and still 100 miles from land, their ship, Endurance, became trapped in ice. The expedition survived another five months camping on ice floes, followed by a perilous journey through stormy seas to remote and unvisited Elephant Island. In a dramatic climax to this amazing survival story, Shackleton and five others navigated 800 miles of treacherous open ocean in a 20-foot boat to fetch a rescue ship.

Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World vividly re-creates one of the most extraordinary adventure stories in history. Jennifer Armstrong narrates this unbelievable story with vigor, an eye for detail, and an appreciation of the marvelous leadership of Shackleton, who brought home every one of his men alive.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

The harrowing survival story of English explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton and the ill-fated *Endurance* has intrigued people since the 1914 expedition--spurring astounding books such as *Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage* and *The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition*. As Shackleton and 27 sailors attempted to cross the frozen Antarctic continent from one side to the other, they were trapped in an ice pack, lost their ship to the icy depths, survived an Antarctic winter, escaped attacks from sea lions, and traversed 600 treacherous miles to the uninhabited Elephant Island. Leaving 22 men behind, Shackleton and five others sailed 800 miles across the southern Atlantic Ocean in a 20-foot open boat to tiny South George Island, where they hiked across unmapped mountains to a whaling station. In 1916, 19 months after the *Endurance* became icebound, Shackleton led a rescue party back to retrieve his men. Remarkably, every crew member survived.

Jennifer Armstrong, the award-winning author of *Black-Eyed Susan* and *The Dreams of Mairhe Mehan*, brings the unbelievable journey to life with delicious details: how a handsome young stowaway was discovered too late to cast him off; how the ship itself would become frost-white, looking like "another species of sparkling white iceberg as it nosed its way through the pack;" and how the ice-pack-dwelling Emperor penguins seemed to enjoy the banjo music of crew member Leonard Hussey. The true-to-life story is as thrilling as they come, and Armstrong's lively, crystal-clear writing style is just as compelling. More than 40 photographs of the expedition populate this inspiring nonfiction adventure story that young readers will devour from cover to cover. (Ages 10 to 14) --Karin Snelson

From School Library Journal

Grade 6 Up-Filled with intriguing details and written with dramatic style, this riveting account of the ill-fated Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition reads like an adventure novel. In 1914, Sir Ernest Shackleton attempted to be the first explorer to cross Antarctica by foot "from sea to sea." On the eve of World War I, he set out with a crew of scientists and sailors on a specially designed ship, *Endurance*, but he and his team never reached their objective. The ship became entrapped in ice, and the men were forced to abandon their mission and try to survive in the brutally harsh Antarctic wasteland for 19 months. Thanks to Shackleton's leadership, the bravery of his crew, and a lot of luck, everyone survived. The astonishing circumstances of their ordeal include a treacherous hike across miles of frozen wasteland, an 800-mile open-boat journey through savage seas, and a perilous trek across the uncharted mountain ranges of South Georgia Island. Armstrong brings all of these experiences vividly to life, frequently using quotes from members of the expedition. Excellent black-and-white photographs taken during the journey document the entire adventure story. Elizabeth Cody Kimmel's *Ice Story* (Clarion, 1999) has larger and more plentiful photographs but Armstrong's text is far more engaging. Kimmel relates all of the facts skillfully, but Armstrong crafts them into an unforgettable story of true heroism and the triumph of the human spirit. A book that will capture the attention and imagination of any reader.

Edward Sullivan, New York Public Library

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From Kirkus Reviews

PLB 0-517-80014-4 Armstrong (The Dreams of Mairhe Mehan, 1996, etc.) narrates the incredible survival saga of Ernest Shackleton, who with a crew of 27 attempted to cross the Antarctic continent in 1914, and ended up trapped in their ship in the ice pack for seven months. When their ship was finally crushed by the

ice they survived for another five months on the moving ice floes, traveled through storm-tossed seas to an uninhabited island, and were rescued, two years after they had set out, after Shackleton and five of his crew traveled 800 miles in an open boat to get help. This unbelievable story is enhanced by the vigorous prose; from the captivating introduction through the epilogue, it is the writing as much as the story that will rivet readers. The black-and-white photos, taken mostly on glass plates by the expedition's photographer, Frank Hurley, survived along with the men and are of exceptional quality. (maps, not seen, bibliography, index) (Nonfiction. 10-13) -- *Copyright ©1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Judith Lea:

The book Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the Endurance make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You need to use to make your capable considerably more increase. Book can being your best friend when you getting tension or having big problem along with your subject. If you can make reading a book Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the Endurance to be your habit, you can get a lot more advantages, like add your own personal capable, increase your knowledge about a number of or all subjects. You could know everything if you like open and read a e-book Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the Endurance. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science publication or encyclopedia or other individuals. So , how do you think about this book?

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Isidro Wells:

In this age globalization it is important to someone to get information. The information will make a professional understand the condition of the world. The healthiness of the world makes the information simpler to share. You can find a lot of referrals to get information example: internet, newspapers, book, and soon. You will observe that now, a lot of publisher which print many kinds of book. The actual book that recommended for you is Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the Endurance this guide consist a lot of the information with the condition of this world now. This specific book was represented just how can the world has grown up. The terminology styles that writer use to explain it is easy to understand. The particular writer made some exploration when he makes this book. That's why this book appropriate all of you.

Brandy Anderson:

In this particular era which is the greater man or who has ability to do something more are more special than other. Do you want to become among it? It is just simple way to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time almost no but quite enough to have a look at some books. One of several books in the top collection in your reading list is Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the Endurance. This book and that is qualified as The Hungry Inclines can get you closer in growing to be precious person. By looking way up and review this book you can get many advantages.

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