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Shackleton: The Antarctic Challenge



Synopsis

His name is synonymous with leadership, perseverance and physical courage. This biography of Ernest Shackleton tells the full account of the man, his life, and his four journeys to the Antarctic.'

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

There are probably better books out there to read for history of Shackleton's Expedition but this is a very good supplement. Very good writing and lots of photos!

fast & clean

I would recommend this book to anyone interested in the natural world. Kim is a fantastic writer and you can feel his love of the environment.

This book must be added to your collection if you are a true student of the Shackleton story. It combines the best of all the books (picture books, biographies, and personal accounts) out there with beautiful photographs in the tradition of National Geographic and the color shots truly enliven the original black and whites from the expedition. The maps are outstanding and there are reproductions of pages from Shackleton's and Hurley's diaries. I haven't really found a book on the Shackleton story that is horrible. Maybe the story is so inspiring it tells itself. Trapped by The Ice, the picture book for kids by Michael McCurdy, is the worst example I know and I still like that for the rendering of the sea leopard leaping at Ordes-Lee, the officer in charge of food supplies. There are

better children's books, *Sea of Ice*, by Monica Kulling, a fairly easy read for upper elementary students with beautiful watercolors, *Trial By Ice*, by K. M. Kostyal, a photobiography of Shackleton, *Ice Story* for middle school students, with black and white photographs and a magnificent large picture book with paintings and photographs, *Spirit of Endurance*, by Jennifer Armstrong. Get them all!

The major events of the ill-fated voyage of Sir Ernest Shackleton's attempt to cross Antarctica are well known. However, what most do not know or understand is the depth and breadth of this extraordinary man. Shackleton was not only a bonified explorer, more importantly he was a noble leader. "Leaders do not force their fellow citizens to follow, they inspire them to do so." If there is one thing to learn from this book, it is the true meaning of leadership and how important willing-loyalty is to our basic survival. Seen in the face of unimaginable odds, they survived - and they survived in whole: worn and frazzled from nearly 2 years of struggle, they were rescued mentally tough and spiritually whole. In no small part, this was due to the quality of leadership demonstrated by Shackleton: it was embraced and reflected in his men. It is amazing, this entity we call 'the human spirit'. If trained - but, not broken - like a fine horse, it has great wonders to show and is a true beauty to behold. Such are the many lessons learned from the tales of this "Endurance" voyage: did anyone ever wonder about the naming of that ship? What started out as a championing exploration, became a struggle with life itself to survive. Likewise, what most will perceive as an "interesting read", will soon become an invaluable source for life-guiding principles. Get the book - read it - and put these incalculably precious lessons into practice in your own life. You never know when you'll need the endurance.

Kim Heacox is a great writer and storyteller (and an amazing photographer, as you can see from other books filled with his beautiful pictures of Alaska and beyond). With Shackleton, he has gripping material to work with. I agree with the other reviewer--a must have for those interested in the Shackleton story and Antarctic exploration. For everyone else, it's just a fascinating read and a beautifully produced book about a land most of us will never visit and an indomitable spirit most of us cannot imagine.

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