
Ernest Shackleton

South, The Endurance Expedition (Patagonia, vol. 1)

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Author: Ernest Shackleton

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Description

The Endurance Expedition 1914-1916. Sir Ernest Shackleton is considered by some authors as the greatest of all Antarctic explorers. Quite all his life was lived with the polar ice as a goal and even after his death, the destiny wanted him to be buried in the whaler's cemetery on South Georgia. The story of the Endurance expedition is as well an epic Antarctic adventure never rivaled by any other record of polar exploration during the so-called Heroic Age. The Endurance was trapped in the pack ice for ten months until it was swallowed by the sea. The account of the rescue is extraordinary. This book is a facsimile from the 1919 edition. We included photographs taken by Frank Hurley, perhaps the photographer that left the most important work about an Antarctic expedition of all time.

Insightful reviews

Alex: I read this casually, a little at a time. It's one of the great adventure stories of all time, and smashing stuff (get it?) but...here's how it works: it's based on the journals of Shackleton and everyone else in his party - he gives others lots of time too - and the entries can be a little repetitious. Like, y'know, "Still stuck on an iceberg. Cold and hungry."

Shackleton's a surprisingly good writer, though. Clear, engaging and often funny. That livens up the doldrum periods - but also, the effect of the long passages in which nothing dramatic happens is that when something does happen, it happens with extraordinary, direct impact. His account of - minor spoiler, I guess? - the final destruction of the Endurance is just crushing. An incredibly powerful moment. The immediacy of the epistolaryish format, with its you-are-here feel, makes the big moments of the expedition directly heartbreaking.

After his account of the main expedition, he starts completely over with what happened with the other boat, the Aurora. (You will have forgotten they exist by this time.) This is a tough one: it's just as compelling a story - they actually had it *worse*, if you can believe that, and again it's based on journals so it has that you're-right-there! feel to it, but there's no avoiding the fact that, having slogged all the way through Shackleton's brutal story, you groan a little when you realize you're about to start over.

I guess I'd suggest laying it aside and picking it up later for this part. It is much shorter, at least. And it's much shorter even than it looks, because after the story of the Aurora's landing party (again, this really is great stuff on its own), Shackleton backtracks *again*, to the people who stayed on the Aurora, and that part is utterly skippable. Nothing whatsoever happens. I read it so you don't have to. Just stop there.

Paul: Quite simply awesome. And I don't use the word lightly, considering it is very much an overused word. Ernest Shackleton was a hero not only because of what he endured, but because of how he led. As opposed to Robert Scott who made a series of errors (as well as experiencing some genuine bad luck with inclement weather) culminating in disaster in 1912, Shackleton's primary concern above all aspects of his mission were the men under his command. In 1908 - on his earlier 'farthest south' expedition, he turned himself and his men

around when within reach of the elusive Pole. He had realised that due to depleted rations and muscles, in the face of extremely adverse weather, if they attained their stated aim of the Pole, they would not return alive. As it was, he had to be hauled on a sledge for the last slog by his two exhausted team-mates, as he was too weakened to carry on unaided...

This book tells the almost incredible tale of how his 1914 expedition failed early in its stated aims, but ultimately triumphed against a series of truly fearsome circumstances in the most inhospitable place on earth. Survival on the ice after the crushing destruction of their ship the Endurance, followed by the break-up of the ice and the harrowing escape over the ice floes into the open waters on board the Endurance's 3 lifeboats until the sanctuary of the bleak Elephant Island. Here is where the story begins anew as 'Uncle' Shackleton and 5 men depart for help leaving behind the remaining expedition team on the remote barren island with a protective shelter of 2 upturned lifeboats and a veneer of sealskins, and a diet consisting of pemmican hoosh, ship biscuit, seal blubber and seal meat when that could be hunted...

If all this hadn't been enough, the rescue party then attempts the crossing of the extreme South Atlantic (acknowledged as arguably the most treacherous open sea on the planet) in the remaining lifeboat - the James Caird. All the while Shackleton keeps his men going with his leadership skills and navigational expertise. His fellow rescue party undoubtedly play their part too in performing this miracle of marine adventure. Several hundred miles away their destination - South Georgia - is found. The journey is not yet over though as Shackleton and 2 others must traverse the unmapped mountainous spine of the island to the relative 'civilisation' of the remote whaling station at Grytviken. This final task proves almost the most dangerous...

The fact that Shackleton's team makes it to safety and in turn returns to Elephant Island to rescue the stranded expedition (by now clearly on the verge of madness and possible cannibalism) - without a single lost soul speaks volumes for his leadership capabilities and also for this generation's incredible resilience in the face of adversity in what Shackleton called 'the White War'. The tale is all the more powerful in the knowledge that many of the brave men on return to a Europe at war in 1916 must tragically go to battle again, and that so many fall in those foreign fields.

One of the most inspiring and exhillirating books you will ever read.

Lawpunk: Having already read, [Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage](#) I was interested in hearing about the expedition in Shackleton's own words. You have to love the British optimism from the Golden Age of Exploration, even in their most dire straits, spirits are always up.

As far as a story, this account reads more like a diary, the narrative suffers from repeated accounts of bearings and wind-directions, which were of obvious importance to Shackleton as a record for future expeditions, but does not lend itself to gripping narrative. The crew is not fleshed out and it's nearly impossible to tell one crew member from another.

All-in-all a good account, but I still prefer Alfred Lansing's version, which combines multiple diaries and gives more insight to the crew.

Yorkshiresoul: again whilst males have been men. on the outbreak of WWI Shackleton had built ships and crews to aim a continental crossing of the Antarctic. He provided to halt the day trip yet was once ordered to proceed by way of Winston Churchill. Famously, the crossing by no means took place. What did occur used to be an more and more determined struggle to outlive through the 2 ship's crews on contrary aspects of the polar continent. The ebook is essentially made from extracts from Shackleton's personal diary and the diaries of a few of the opposite day trip members, labored jointly right into a strongly coherent narrative. Shackleton charts the issues confronted via his (the Weddell Sea) aspect of the expedition. His ship, the Endurance, turned caught in sea ice in January 1915 the place it drifted slowly around the Weddell Sea until eventually it used to be overwhelmed and sank in November of an identical year. Shackleton's workforce camped at the relocating ice till April of 1916 whilst their ice floe broke aside they usually have been compelled into the salvaged ship's boats to make a harrowing 5 day sea voyage to the dry land of Elephant Island. Shackleton shows large compassion for the anguish of his men. The rationing, the consistent severe chilly and atrocious weather, the negative rations (including classes the place the lads have been doing the backbreaking paintings of hauling sledges, after the deaths of the dogs, on rations of a unmarried biscuit and a mug of cocoa a day), frostbite, boredom, ennui, scurvy, snow-blindness, exhaustion - the variety of difficulties thrown opposed to the boys turns out nearly insurmountable, and yet, via it all, Shackleton retains his staff jointly operating tough for every other's survival. Parts of the story are so epically British that you just can not help yet believe a swell of delight for a country that produced males like these. "The patience sank, yet we kept the pennant of the Royal Yacht Club." indicators are vital of course, and while throwing away nearly of in their own possessions after the sinking, Shackleton knew the significance of maintaining quite a few items, the pennant, an encyclopaedia, the men's pipes, that might stay as a tiny degree of normality and residential convenience at midnight days ahead. When every little thing appeared nearly misplaced on the Elephant Island camp, with a number of the males ultimately filing to the throes of depression, Shackleton and a volunteer staff introduced the ship's boat, the James Caird, a vessel a bit higher than a cruising dinghy and sailed 800 miles to South Georgia, arriving there because of the first-class navigational abilities of the Endurance's captain Frank Worsely. This voyage alone, via freezing, typhoon swept, mountainous souther ocean, will be sufficient for a heroic survival story, and upon touchdown at the mistaken part of South Georgia the boys nonetheless need to make an extended and hazardous march with a purpose to achieve the whaling station and lift help. The stipulations confronted by means of the workforce of the Aurora around the continent within the Ross Sea have been no much less incredible. The workforce the following within the tracks of Captain Scott, laying meals and gas depots for Shackleton's celebration to discover as they crossed the continent. The Aurora was once ripped from its moorings and drifted, badly damaged, till the workforce nursed it to New Zealand. As Shackleton used to be establishing the rescue for the Elephant Island team, so the Aurora's workforce organised a rescue for his or her comrades at the ice close to Ross Island. South is a huge story of survival opposed to the odds, of what humans can do while confronted with extremis, while mendacity down and giving up could were a ways more straightforward than suffering on, for day after day, month after month. it really is an inspiring read, uplifting in its personal way, and illuminates good how those males have been the goods of the period they lived in - after being rescued each guy healthy to serve signed up for army provider in WWI. South is at present on hand at no cost obtain from Amazon.

Ilina: it really is challenging to pass judgement on those books by means of an identical criteria you would use on whatever else. Shackleton isn't a writer, yet his story of the, well, failure of the patience makes for a riveting read. the truth that all of them (spoiler alert) survived after bad struggles with the ice, cold, hunger, thirst and melancholy is just a little miraculous, and Shackleton's understated tone makes all of it the extra impressive.

David Greene: "For wisdom and erudition, supply me Scott. For expeditionary and exploration prowess, take Peary. but when catastrophe strikes, get down in your knees and pray for Shackleton!"

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