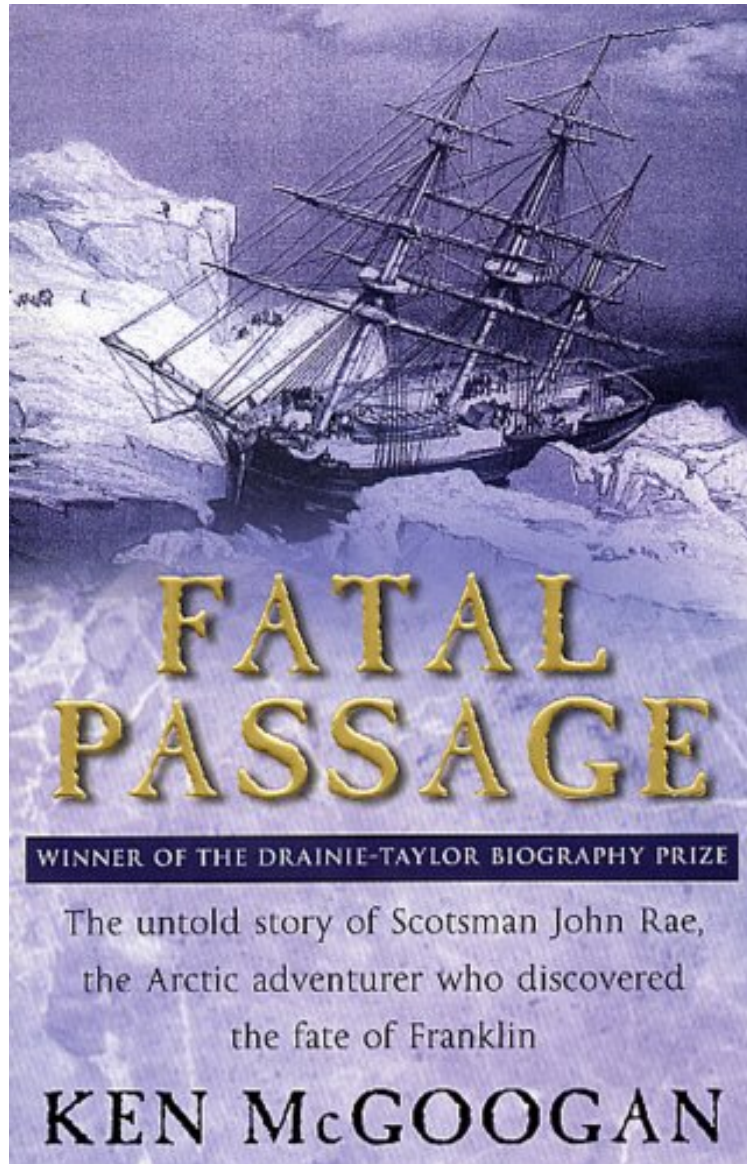


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Fatal Passage

Ken McGoogan

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Ken McGoogan : Fatal Passage before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fatal Passage:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Arctic ExplorationBy Steven M. AnthonyI enjoy reading non-fictional accounts of exploration, and have found two geographic regions particularly interesting; ian and Arctic exploration. Perhaps this is because the issues faced by explorers of those regions are particularly challenging.This

book is essentially a biography of Dr. John Rae, a longtime employee of the Hudson Bay Company, who spent much of his life on or North of the Arctic Circle. The author is an unabashed fan of Dr. Rae, and even points out in his preface that the purpose of the book is to elevate Dr. Rae to a position in the pantheon of Arctic explorers, a position that the author firmly believes that Dr. Rae has been unjustly denied. As a result, the question arises as to whether the author presents an unbiased picture of Rae and his achievements. For the greatest part of the book, this is really not a factor. There is no dispute as to Rae's exploits, his discoveries, or the incredible feats of endurance and competence he displayed in his endeavors. However, the final quarter of the book, dealing with controversy concerning his report on the Franklin expedition and the long running feud between Rae and Lady Jane Franklin certainly have the potential to present a biased and perhaps overly complementary picture of Rae's actions. The final segment of the book, dealing with discovery of the Northwest Passage and the honors associated therewith, give the author a final opportunity to argue the poor treatment accorded Rae. While virtually every other explorer with a hand in charting the region was awarded knighthoods and cash rewards, Rae was excluded from official plaudits. Doubtless, this was a political decision as was the decision by many to credit Franklin with discovery of the Passage (which he most certainly did not). However, to simply label Rae as the discoverer of the Northwest Passage borders on hagiography. Charting the Northwest Passage was a collaborative undertaking and required the combined efforts of literally dozens of explorers over the course of decades. While it is true that Rae identified the final piece in the puzzle (though it is unlikely that he knew it at the time), to give him full credit ignores the 95% of the puzzle that was already in place. Despite its sometimes biased viewpoints, it cannot be argued that Rae was anything other than a fascinating individual and perhaps the most physically gifted Arctic explorer on record. I can recommend this book to anyone with an interest in exploration in general and Arctic exploration in particular. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Chilling Discoveries By Constance I chose to read this book as a way to prepare for a cruise along the Northwest Passage. While my journey will be (I hope) much different than that of early explorers, I now have a greater appreciation of their contributions to our knowledge of the Arctic. John Rae was a man among men - brilliant in his approach to Arctic exploration. He discovered the fate of the Franklin expedition searching for the northwest passage. A fascinating well written account well documented. A thoroughly engrossing book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Felt that I was there. By peter Read this book some time ago on my e reader, thoroughly enjoyed it and as I read the book I felt I was actually travelling along with the expedition. Cannot believe how hard it was for explorers especially travelling through the freezing cold and with no modern conveniences that we have today. Should really rate as five.

The true story of the remarkable John Rae - Arctic traveller and Hudson's Bay Company doctor - FATAL PASSAGE is a tale of imperial ambition and high adventure. In 1854 Rae solved the two great Arctic mysteries: the fate of the doomed Franklin expedition and the location of the last navigable link in the Northwest Passage. But Rae was to be denied the recognition he so richly deserved. On returning to London, he faced a campaign of denial and vilification led by two of the most powerful people in Victorian England: Lady Jane Franklin, the widow of the lost Sir John, and Charles Dickens, the most influential writer of the age. A remarkable story of courage and determination, FATAL PASSAGE is Ken McGoogan's passionate redemption of Rae's rightful place in history. In this richly documented and illustrated work, McGoogan captures the essence of one man's indomitable spirit.

"In Ken McGoogan's artful telling, John Rae emerges from the shadows to take his place among the most intriguing of the 19th century Arctic explorers. This is delightful reading" -- Andrea Barrett, author *The Voyage of the Narwhal* "A riveting story - backed by solid research - that illuminates a fascinating chapter in the annals of Arctic exploration" * Wall Street Journal * "An overdue book that makes an important contribution to Arctic exploration history and yet remains compulsively readable for the non-specialist" * Quill Quire * "A riveting story of courage and determination, high adventure and imperial ambition... Excellent" * Historical Novels * "A tale of ambition and high adventure... a passionate redemption of Rae's rightful place in history" * Edinburgh Times * About the Author KEN MCGOOGAN is a Canadian writer - historian, biographer, novelist and journalist. He is the author of the internationally acclaimed bestseller *Fatal Passage* about Scottish Arctic adventurer John Rae, which won the Writers' Trust of Canada Drainie-Taylor Biography Prize, the Canadian Authors' Association History Award and the Grant MacEwan Award. It also won a US Christopher Award as a work of artistic excellence that 'affirms the highest values of the human spirit'. The author lives with his family in Toronto, Canada.