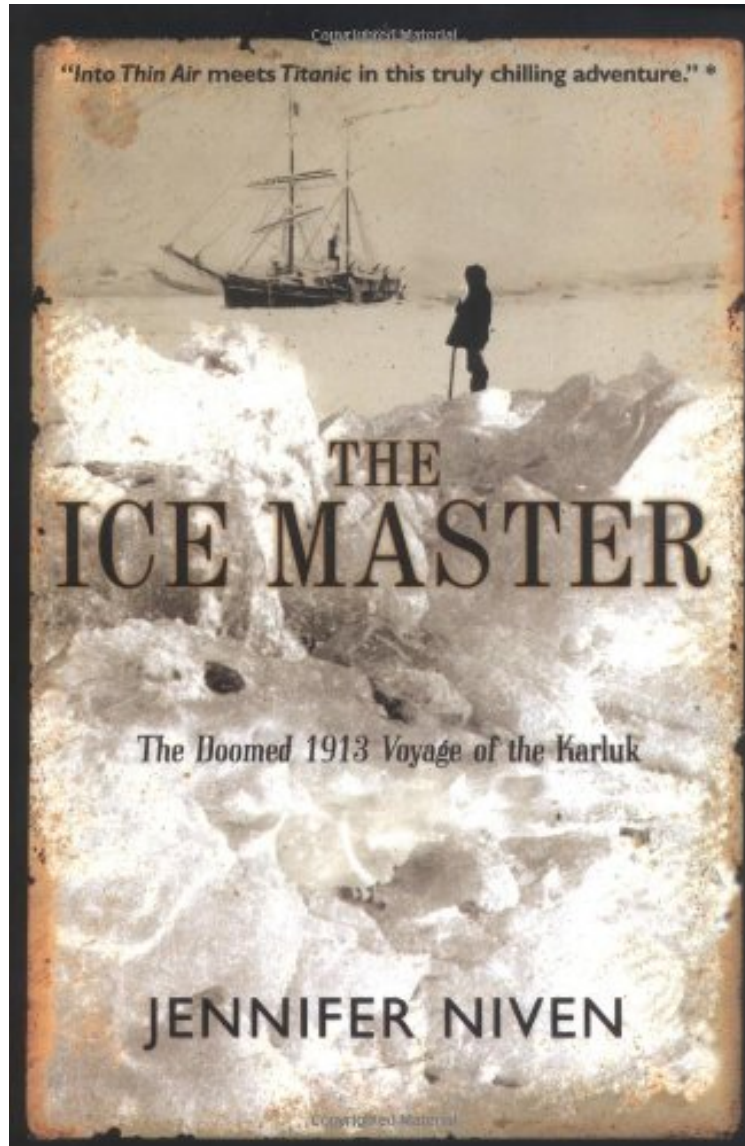


(Read free) The Ice Master: The Doomed 1913 Voyage of the Karluk

The Ice Master: The Doomed 1913 Voyage of the Karluk

Jennifer Niven

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Jennifer Niven : The Ice Master: The Doomed 1913 Voyage of the Karluk before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Ice Master: The Doomed 1913 Voyage of the Karluk:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Mostly a pretty good read.By gordonI am going to disagree with many of the reviewers here and say that while I liked this book and would probably recommend it I would also say that it is about 100 pages longer than it needed to be. There is a lot of detail from the men's journals and it is interesting to a point but as the book moves into the last 2 months of these peoples ordeal it just begins to repeat itself

over and over again. I guess that makes sense but I started skipping pages at the end up until the actual rescue as nothing new was to be learned from this story of survival. I thought it might have been interesting to know more about what happened to the expeditions leader in the aftermath. He should have been sent to prison! But maybe nothing was there because nothing of consequence happened to him. Very little is said about this subject at the end of the book.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great read!

By Customer

It's the second time I've read this book. First time in hard copy, second time in Kindle. One must also read the other book by Jennifer Niven as well: *Ada Blackjack*. These farcical polar 'explorations' IF they can be called that, takes place years apart, *Ada Blackjack* polar debacle took place after the *Karluk* debacle. Both being 'lead by' the infamous Vilhjalmur Stefansson. Anyone who hitched their wagon to Stefansson was a doomed person. He was the epitome of ego and vanity. The tragic stories laid out in this book (the doom of the *Karluk*) and the later book (*Ada Blackjack*, sole survivor of the Wrangel Island farce) are excellent. Both are great books. Don't miss reading Jennifer Niven's "*Ada Blackjack*". One poor schmuck who survived the *Karluk* actually signed up for the Wrangel Island debacle (*Ada Blackjack* book) and died on that last fateful "exploration". Mind you, Stefansson was nowhere to be seen. He SENDS people to die. He doesn't actually GO with them. And SPOILER ALERT: when he DOES GO, he abandons his crew to die, and saves himself. Yeah, true.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Enthralling, epic tale

By J. Lupton

This story while not as widely known as Shackleton's adventure in the Antarctic is just as engrossing. The author does a fantastic job and it's hard to imagine someone doing a better job of tying together multiple sources to weave a story that makes you feel like you were there with this group. I felt emotionally invested in the outcome and identified with the characters within this crew. This is a rare accomplishment to not only tell a story, tell it well but also to care about the events as they transpire. One of the best books I've read in a very long time (would also include "*Frozen In Time*" in this). It was surreal reading this book on vacation in Key West! Kudos to the author to transforming a massive amount of research into a compelling story. The author's dedication to the subject matter comes shining through - excellent work!

I don't believe I can add much to the other previous reviews but this is my take on this great book.

The *Karluk* set out in 1913 in search of an undiscovered continent, with the largest scientific staff ever sent into the Arctic. Soon after, winter had begun, they were blown off course by polar storms, the ship became imprisoned in ice, and the expedition was abandoned by its leader. Hundreds of miles from civilization, the castaways had no choice but to find solid ground as they struggled against starvation, snow blindness, disease, exposure--and each other. After almost twelve months battling the elements, twelve survivors were rescued, thanks to the heroic efforts of their captain, Bartlett, the Ice Master, who traveled by foot across the ice and through Siberia to find help. Drawing on the diaries of those who were rescued and those who perished, Jennifer Niven re-creates with astonishing accuracy the ill-fated journey and the crews desperate attempts to find a way home.

.com

Eighty-five years after a famous but ill-equipped Canadian Arctic expedition of 1913 had sacrificed 16 lives, some artifacts appeared on an Internet auction site. They had originated at a "ghost camp," discovered in 1924, where four of the expedition's 28 men, one woman, and two children had perished. Jennifer Niven has completed the unfulfilled mission of survivor William McKinlay to produce a "more honest and revealing account" of the wreck of the *Karluk* and its aftermath. The explorers became split into several dispersed groups living "in the shadow of death." Their simultaneously grim and gruesome experiences are interwoven in this minutely detailed and atmospheric retelling, created by combining and comparing firsthand accounts and other sources. The characters are vividly re-created, from the expedition's self-interested leader, whom McKinlay called "a consummate liar and cheat," to the heroic ship's master, who struggled over 700 miles to organize a rescue. Supplemented by haunting and fascinating photographs, The Ice Master makes for harrowing and compulsive reading. This is a momentous story of the Arctic; of adventure, misadventure, and the heights of human endurance. But it is also a story of human failings and the waste of young lives, as poignant now as it was when it was big news in 1914. --Karen Tiley, .co.uk

From Publishers Weekly

The 1913 Canadian Arctic Expedition was perhaps the worst-planned arctic exploration in history. The captain declared the ship unfit for the voyage upon seeing it, and the crew consisted of young sailors who had no arctic experience, and scientists who would be better off teaching in a classroom than searching for an undiscovered arctic continent. Niven's first book, unlike the voyage, is well-researched and it's thorough. Screenwriter Niven captivates with her reconstruction of the doomed crew's efforts to survive the harshness of the polar winter, disease, hunger and their own clashing personalities. She expertly captures the feelings of the crew about their situation and about each other, and meticulously recounts the daily activities of the 25 crew members (11 survived), during their long stay as castaways on a small arctic island. The story does read slowly at points, especially near the beginning of the book. The pace picks up as the book progresses, with the most exciting part being the heroic account of the captain's 700-mile trek from the crew's camp to Siberia in search of a ship that he could use to rescue his men. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Booklist

Starred/

In 1913, famed scientist Vilhjalmur Stefansson organized a mission to the Arctic to discover uncharted land. In an attempt to save money, he purchased a less than adequate ship, the *Karluk*, and skimmed on supplies. After only a month, the ship becomes trapped in a giant ice floe, and Stefansson

abandons most of the crew and scientists, leaving them to fend for themselves. Led astray by the ice flow and brutal winds, the 25 remaining people are eventually forced to abandon the ship after it is crushed by ice and begins sinking. From this point, their real troubles begin. They camp on the ice but, with spring approaching, are forced to hike along the shifting ice floes to the barely habitable Wrangel Island. Once there, the captain and one Inuit man begin a trek to Siberia in hopes of finding a ship to rescue the stranded men. Meanwhile, the survivors on Wrangel Island face harsh weather, illness, and dissent among their ranks. Drawn from the diaries and firsthand accounts of the scientists and crew, Niven has skillfully written her narrative with a genuine sense of immediacy. Her straightforward prose, along with the excerpts from the men's diaries, reveals the men's characters, both good and bad. The survivors cover the entire spectrum of human nature, from noble self-sacrifice to bitter selfishness. While some men resorted to stealing and lying, others went so far as to risk their lives for the survival of the group. Niven's narration transcends the adventure genre and can ultimately be looked at as a study of how the human character is revealed under extreme duress. An amazingly powerful book. Kristine Huntley Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved