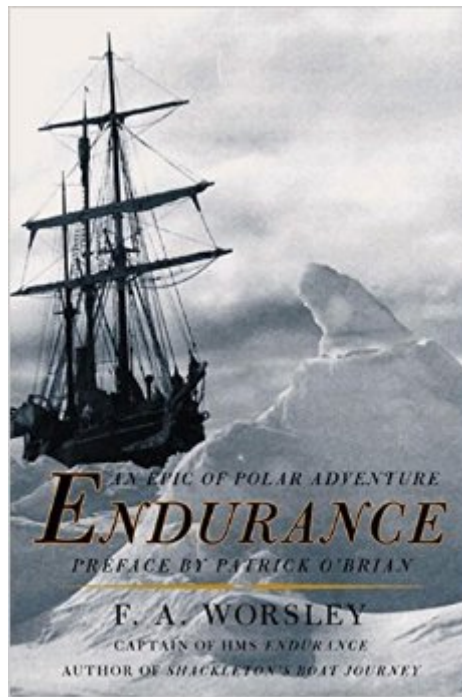


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Endurance



Synopsis

The legendary tale of Ernest Shackleton's grueling Antarctic expedition, recounted in riveting first-person detail by the captain of HMS Endurance. "You seriously mean to tell me that the ship is doomed?" asked Frank Worsley, commander of the Endurance, stuck impassably in Antarctic ice packs. "What the ice gets," replied Sir Ernest Shackleton, the expedition's unflappable leader, "the ice keeps." It did not, however, get the ship's twenty-five crew members, all of whom survived an eight-hundred-mile voyage across sea, land, and ice to South Georgia, the nearest inhabited island. First published in 1931, *Endurance* tells the full story of that doomed 1914-16 expedition and incredible rescue, as well as relating Worsley's further adventures fighting U-boats in the Great War, sailing the equally treacherous waters of the Arctic, and making one final (and successful) assault on the South Pole with Shackleton. It is a tale of unrelenting high adventure and a tribute to one of the most inspiring and courageous leaders of men in the history of exploration. 20 illustrations

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Frank Worsley was the Captain of the "Endurance", the ship on which Sir Ernest Shackleton and twenty-seven other men sailed to Antarctica in 1914 to attempt the first crossing ever of the South Polar continent from sea to sea. They never reached Antarctica. The "Endurance" was captured by polar ice in the Weddell Sea, and eventually it was crushed and sunk. The 28 men took to the polar seas in three small boats, which landed on desolate Elephant Island. Then six of them, with Frank Worsley doing the skippering, sailed for help in a 22-foot boat across eight hundred miles of cold and stormy ocean to South Georgia Island, a phenomenal piece of navigation and seamanship.

After that, three of them - Shackleton, Worsley, and Tom Crean - had to cross a rugged, icy, and gale-swept mountain range to reach a whaling station. Three months later, and twenty months after the "Endurance" had been immobilized by ice, the men stranded on Elephant Island were rescued. All 28 of the party survived the ordeal. It was one of the most extraordinary feats of fortitude and survival in recorded human history. Worsley wrote two books about the epic adventure. This one, ENDURANCE, was published first, in 1931. Two years later, he published "Shackleton's Boat Journey." I suspect, however, that "Shackleton's Boat Journey" had been written first. In any event, it is a tauter, more focused account of the ordeal of the expedition, from the time the "Endurance" sank until the men stranded on Elephant Island were rescued. It is one of the most gripping books I have ever read. ENDURANCE seems to have been written for a broader audience. To me, it is over-written and, too often, clichéd or sentimental.

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