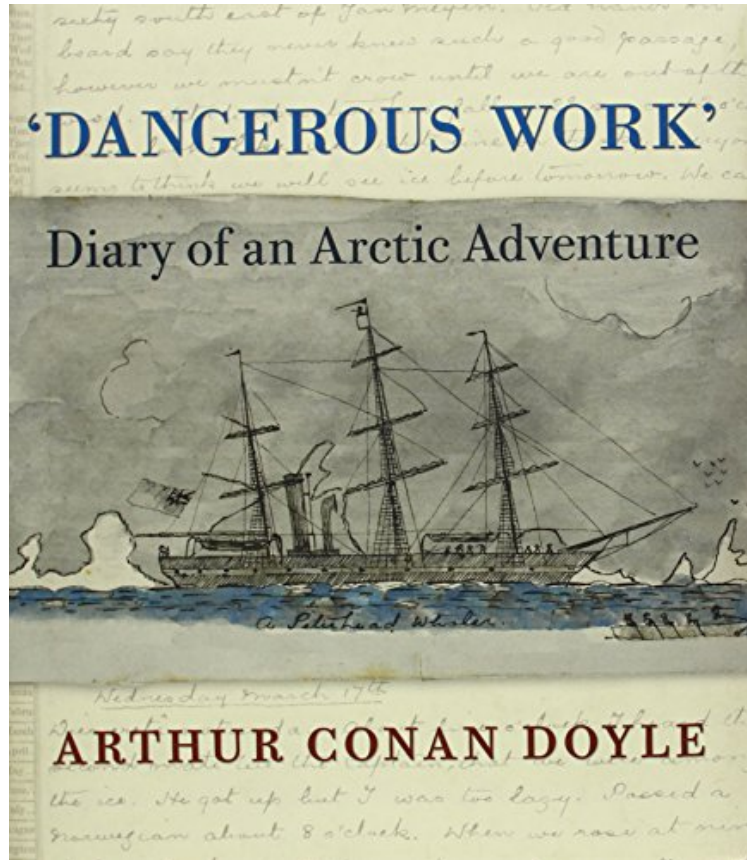


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Dangerous Work: Diary of an Arctic Adventure

Arthur Conan Doyle

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Arthur Conan Doyle : Dangerous Work: Diary of an Arctic Adventure before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dangerous Work: Diary of an Arctic Adventure:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fabulous Treasure from AC Doyle By Terrence C. Fabulous recent find from ACD that was previously unknown. I originally got it from the library, but after reading it decided I needed a permanent copy in my collection. It's almost like a coffee table book. The first half is a facsimile of his actual handwritten diary of his experiences on the ship's voyage (while he was on hiatus from med school, prior to his Holmes days), complete with wonderful drawings. The second half is the diary transcribed in print and annotated. It's a wonderful read. One warning: the voyage took place in the later 19th century, a different time with human's interactions with animals. There are graphic descriptions of animal killings (and some drawings), and they seem to kill any/every live animal they see, whether it's a critter they're hunting or not. They seem to do it just for the heck of it. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. insight into the origins of Doyle's creativity By Penelope Schmitt Although one may sicken slightly (or greatly) at the tally of seals knocked on the head, whales slaughtered, and bears bagged, this diary of a whaler's voyage into Arctic waters reveals the very young Doyle as a fearless, observant, and interesting crew member with a hand for drawing as competent as his gift for writing and recording.

Doyle already began to 'contain multitudes' at this early age, and you can see how he was becoming the man who would have Holmes and Watson as avatars--himself more the bluff and hearty man of simple tastes, but harboring within the keener mind and sensibility of the observant connoisseur. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A good read about a by-gone era. By Donald Lewin This makes a great gift to a teenager/young adult who is somewhat at loss as to a career. It documents the path of one distinguished individual in making that choice. Besides it is a nice pleasant, fascinating read. As an older man who essentially made his living as an economist and statistician, I was somewhat appalled by the brutal notion of making a livelihood from hunting, but the business as a business is a fine example of the way business contracts and risks were undertaken in a by-gone era. As a book complete with editorial comments, it is a fine piece of scholarship and very intelligent editing. It was an easy read.

In 1880 a young medical student named Arthur Conan Doyle embarked upon the first real outstanding adventure of his life, taking a berth as ship's surgeon on an Arctic whaler, the *Hope*. The voyage took him to unknown regions, showered him with dramatic and unexpected experiences, and plunged him into dangerous work on the ice floes of the Arctic seas. He tested himself, overcame the hardships, and, as he wrote later, came of age at 80 degrees north latitude. Conan Doyle's time in the Arctic provided powerful fuel for his growing ambitions as a writer. With a ghost story set in the Arctic wastes that he wrote shortly after his return, he established himself as a promising young writer. A subsequent magazine article laying out possible routes to the North Pole won him the respect of Arctic explorers. And he would call upon his shipboard experiences many times in the adventures of Sherlock Holmes, who was introduced in 1887's *A Study in Scarlet*.

What does *Dangerous Work* have in common with *Moby-Dick*? A few of a hundred possible answers: Both books disguise great depth beneath the cloak of an adventure story. Both offer accounts of what was once a major industry, comparable in relative terms to today's oil industry. Both should be read from cover to cover, shared with friends and revisited in front of a warm fire. And both, for different reasons, are books to treasure, the kind that kindle and rekindle a love of words and a feeling of irredeemable debt to the men behind them.