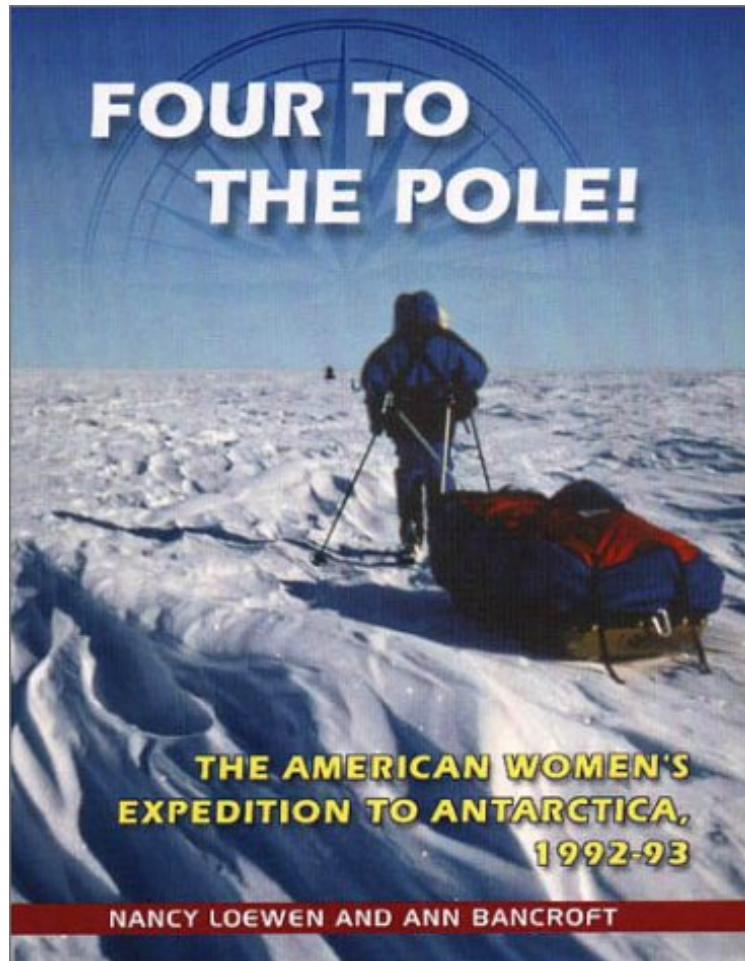


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Four to the Pole!: The American Women's Expedition to Antarctica, 1992-1993

Nancy Loewen, Ann Bancroft

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Nancy Loewen, Ann Bancroft : Four to the Pole!: The American Women's Expedition to Antarctica, 1992-1993 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Four to the Pole!: The American Women's Expedition to Antarctica, 1992-1993:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Donna Bouchie Great book 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An unusual blend of autobiography and adventure By Midwest Book Review This survey of the American women's expedition to Antarctica from 1992-93 is intended for teens and middle school readers but will reach into adult levels as well, providing an unusual blend of autobiography and adventure as author Bancroft and 3 others journeyed to Antarctic. Based on their journals, Four To The Pole is a fine account of their adventures and discoveries.

*This title was chosen as a 2001 Honor Book by the Society of School Librarians International. On January 14, 1993, four women made history by becoming the first women to reach the South Pole on foot. For sixty-seven days and 660 miles they skied, dragging 200-pound sleds, across the white plains of Antarctica, challenged by its bitter temperatures and strong winds. But the biggest hardships they faced were internal, as each one struggled to keep mental focus, emotional perspective, and physical well being in the face of nearly unyielding stress. This is a true story, told in diary excerpts, dispatches, letters, and narrative. It is an intimate account of four very different people aiming for a single goal: Ann, whose job as leader ultimately came before personal ambition; Sue, whose early worries first closed her off from others; Anne, who fought the injury and mood swings grinding her down; and Sunniva, whose sprained ankle forced her to accept help as well as give it. Because of their synergy and dedication, all four reached the Pole as a team. But as important for each was the inward journey. Strong and strongminded women, carving out their own paths in life, are still enough of a rarity in books for teenagers to make this one special. It is illustrated with photos from the expedition. A Linnet Book. Grades 6-up, xi, 84 p., map, illus., gloss., resources. Library binding, 0-208-02518-9, \$25.00.

From School Library Journal Gr 6 Up-It took five years of arduous training, fund-raising, and planning to get this competent team to Antarctica in 1992. Unable to secure the corporate sponsorship of most men's expeditions, the American Women's Expedition (AWE) relentlessly pursued their goal to become the first women to reach the South Pole on foot. Their 67-day journey on skis, pulling 200-pound sleds, is dramatically detailed in a well-balanced mix of personal diary entries, interviews, letters, radio dispatches, newsletter excerpts, and narrative. Loewen and Bancroft's prose is spare and visual, a good match for the subject. They invite readers to imagine the team's first day as the small plane flies away, leaving them alone in this brutal environment. Many of the struggles are predictably physical, such as blisters, injuries, and nearly overwhelming fatigue. However, the gravest struggles were emotional and psychological. The women's success in the face of powerful challenges is a testament to their courage and ability. The well-designed book features varying margin widths to signal diary entries and effective use of blue dividing lines and a sastrugi (hard waves of ice and snow) pattern. More than a dozen well-captioned, full-color and black-and-white photographs provide stark images of the punishing terrain, sleds and equipment, and the determined faces of the four women. An epilogue gives information about their continued connection to Antarctica, including Bancroft's most recent history-making endeavor—a two-woman traverse of the continent. This thrilling book should enjoy a wide audience. Lee Bock, Glenbrook Elementary School, Pulaski, WI Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Gr. 6-9. This candid account of the experiences of the first all-female team to traverse Antarctica on foot joins a growing body of young-adult literature about arctic exploration. Day-by-day entries drawn from the four women's diaries, taped interviews, research transcripts, and expedition newsletters re-create the physically and psychologically punishing trek to the South Pole. Occasionally humorous but more often painfully matter-of-fact, the entries are revealing testaments to the women's strength. Readers will be amazed by the courage and stubborn resolve the adventurers exhibited as they battled not only dangerous terrain and brutal temperatures but also injury and physical and mental exhaustion as they pushed on to reach the South Pole. An extensive bibliography and a selection of Web sites, including one about Bancroft's successful 2000 traverse of Antarctica, are appended. Suggest this to teachers considering a real-life survival unit. Chris Sherman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved [W]ould be a valuable addition to a collection because it brings the personal, immediate, and human experience to the reader. -- VOYA, October 2001