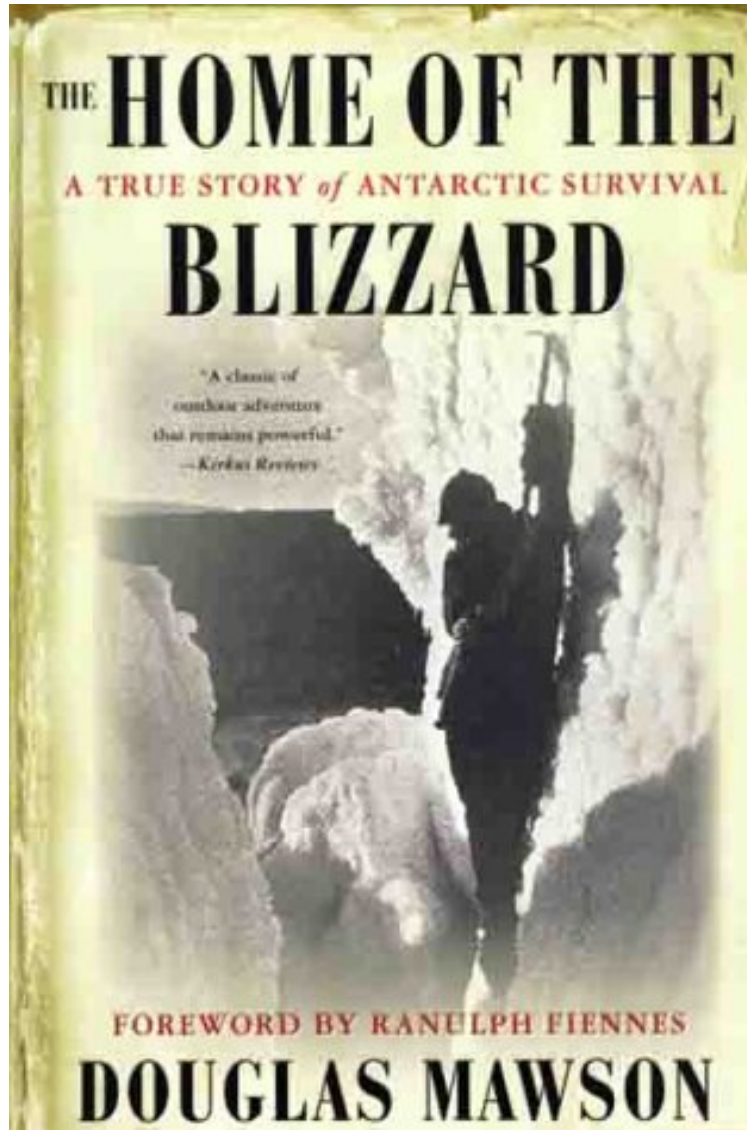


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The Home of the Blizzard: A True Story of Antarctic Survival

Sir Douglas Mawson

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#2383091 in Books 2000-06-03Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 1.36 x 5.50 x 8.271, #File Name: 0312230729574 pages | File size: 54.Mb

Sir Douglas Mawson : The Home of the Blizzard: A True Story of Antarctic Survival before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Home of the Blizzard: A True Story of Antarctic Survival:

22 of 22 people found the following review helpful. A comprehensive look at Mawson's little-known expeditionBy Susan PaxtonAfter his contributions to Sir Ernest Shackleton's 1907-1909 Nimrod expedition, Australian scientist Dr. Douglas Mawson decided to put together his own expedition, one that placed more emphasis on science than any up to

that time and many afterwards. Although his own experiences were by far the most gripping of the expedition, Mawson is careful to tell the entire story, with excerpts from other member's diaries and reports. His style is a little dry, compared to Shackleton's books, but the tale of the expedition is a compelling and interesting one. The book is very well illustrated with photographs, maps, and diagrams, and the cover is really handsome. Read this, but also read Lennard Bickel's "Mawson's Will" for more emphasis on Mawson's own terrifying adventure. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Helmut Hafner Could not stop reading. 2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. book as advertised By B. Stephan 'Home of the Blizzard' in condition as stated (or better), was delivered quickly and is great reading. I have several books by early explorers such as Nanson, Amundson, Shackleton, Scott and others and this is as interesting as the rest.

The Home of the Blizzard is a tale of discovery and adventure in the Antarctic--of pioneering deeds, great courage, heart-stopping rescues, and heroic perseverance. This is Douglas Mawson's first-hand account of his years spent in sub-zero temperatures and gale-force winds. At the heart of the story is Mawson's epic sledge journey in 1912-13 during which his companions Ninnis and Mertz both perished. Told in a laconic but gripping narrative, this is a story that all armchair explorers will cherish. Originally published to great acclaim in 1915, this book has been out of print for many years. The Home of the Blizzard is illustrated with over ninety original photographs depicting the wildlife, the harsh living conditions and the spirit of the explorers. With a specially commissioned foreword by Sir Ranulph Fiennes, the "world's greatest living explorer," this is a book for anyone interested in adventure and the strength of the human spirit.

.com Rejecting a position on Scott's ill-fated South Pole team, Australian explorer Douglas Mawson sets off with his own plans in December 1911 to explore the unknown Antarctic coast south of Australia. The Home of the Blizzard is Mawson's thrilling account of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition, which set its base camp in a region of terrific yearlong windstorms and blizzards. Originally published as a two-volume work in 1915, then abridged and reprinted in 1930, this edition replicates the bestselling 1930 volume, which has long been out of print. Unlike most Antarctic expeditions of his day, Mawson's trek had no pole-hunting ambitions, focusing instead on scientific inquiry and mapping, which the international media largely ignored. And indeed, when Mawson left the Antarctic continent, his expedition had amassed more maps of Antarctica than any other to date. But Mawson's journey was no more void of adventure than those exploits of his contemporaries. Mawson's vivid description of the storms, hardships, endurance, tragedy, and survival make this adventure story well worth resurrecting. When his two companions perish, Mawson ventures on an unthinkable solo sledge journey back to his coastal base, a feat nothing short of pure courage. With a forward by renowned polar explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes and four folios of black-and-white photographs from the expedition, *Blizzard* is a polar classic that adventure enthusiasts are sure to embrace. --Byron Ricks From Kirkus sA classic of outdoor adventure that, although a little dry by today - s post-Krakauer standards, remains powerful. Mawson, an Australian mountaineer/explorer who died in 1958, traveled to Antarctica as a member of a British government surveying expedition in 1913. He found the continent to be less daunting in some ways than he might have anticipated - the weather on the southern shore of the Ross Sea, for one thing, was often surprisingly mild - although certainly dangerous. As he writes, much of his team - s early work lay in the uninteresting details of packing and unpacking thousands of pounds of coal, canned food sufficient to last for two years (- preserved meats were taken only in comparatively small quantities, for in the matter of meat we intended to rely chiefly on seal and penguin flesh -), mapping equipment, and countless other bits of ordnance. He would come to miss those uneventful days when he and members of his party traveled inland from the Ross Sea shelf to map the rugged interior, where glacial ice and blizzards proved to be a constant challenge. So, too, did rocky cliffs and hidden crevasses, one of which swallowed up a comrade and his dog team. And so, too, did frostbite, which claimed bits and pieces of each of his team. Mawson writes with understatement and the explorer - s customary sangfroid (- I received rather a nasty squeeze through falling into a hole whilst going downhill, the sledge falling on me before I could get clear"), a stiff-upper-lip stance that gives way from time to time to unmistakable affection, both for his fellow travelers and for Antarctica itself, which Mawson found to be hauntingly beautiful. Sir Ranulph Fiennes, the famed British explorer, writes in the foreword to this reissue of this 1915 title that he rereads Mawson - s book - during the planning stage of each new expedition. - The lesson less practiced polar explorers might take away is: stay home and read this book. -- Copyright 1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. This classic will be enjoyed by adventure enthusiasts, from those yearning for more grueling survival stories to readers interested in early Antarctic scientific and biological research. Booklist Mawson tells the dramatic tale in the excellent and until recently out-of-print memoir... New York Times Book