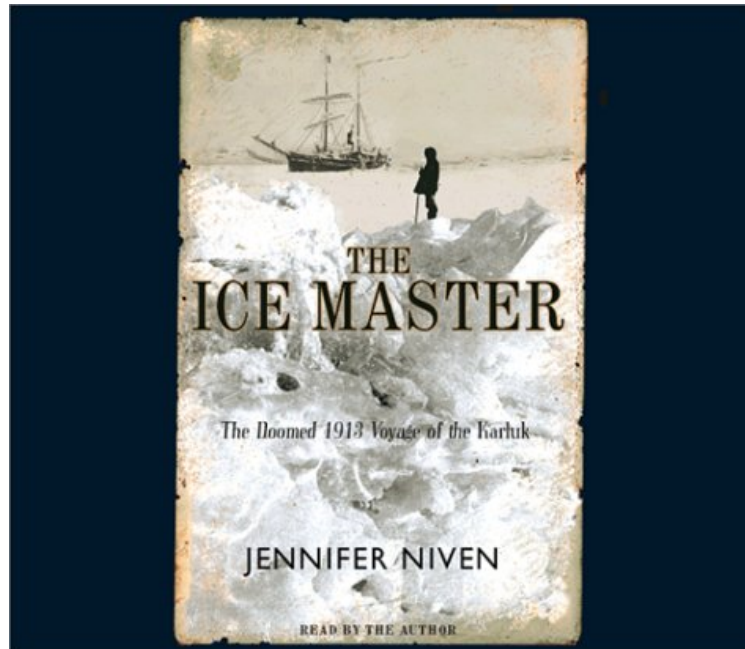


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The Ice Master

Jennifer Niven

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Jennifer Niven : The Ice Master before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Ice Master:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Mostly a pretty good read. By gordon I 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 no where 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.

In 1913 an expedition party sailed out of British Columbia in search of an undiscovered Arctic continent. Filled with hope and excitement, the twenty-five people on board had no hint of the tragedy that lay ahead. Imprisoned in ice, abandoned by their expedition leader, and blown off course by polar storms, the Karluks crew was eventually forced to abandon ship on the ice-pack somewhere in the remote, treacherous Arctic. While the captain set off on foot on a 700-mile trek to search for help, the castaways left behind had no choice but to wait, and to struggle against hypothermia, snowblindness, and death from mysterious disease, starvation, or exposure to the brutal Arctic winter. Finally, after being stranded for nearly twelve months at the top of the world, eight men, one woman, and two children were rescued. Until now, their amazing story has never been fully told. Bringing together first-hand diary accounts, original documents, news reports, and interviews with a variety of sources including descendants of expedition members and the one living survivor
The Ice Master is a true story that rivals the most dramatic fiction. It is a tale of adventure and exploration, of cowardice and heroism, of brutality and hardship, of betrayal and redemption. It is a story about unlikely heroes and unexpected villainshuman beings reduced to their primal needs by the infinite power and mystery of nature.

.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.
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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