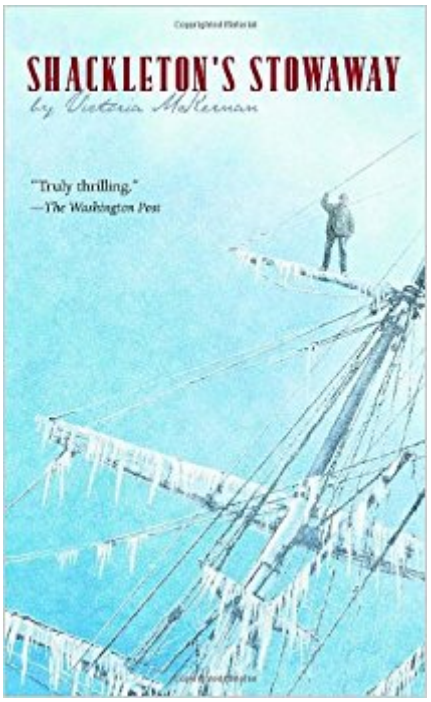
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Shackleton's Stowaway



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Synopsis

On October 26, 1914, Ernest ShackletonÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Endurance set sail from Buenos Aires in pursuit of the last unclaimed prize in exploration: the crossing of the Antarctic continent. The crew stood on deck to watch the city fade away. All but one. Eighteen-year-old Perce Blackborow hid below in a locker. But the thrill of stowing away with the legendary explorer would soon turn to fear. Within months, the Endurance, trapped and crushed by ice, sank. And even Perce, the youngest member of the stranded crew, knew there was no hope of rescue. If the men were to survive in the most hostile place on earth, they would have to do it on their own. Victoria McKernan deftly weaves the hard-to-fathom facts of this famous voyage into an epic, edge-of-your-seat survival novel.From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 740 (What's this?)

Mass Market Paperback: 336 pages

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Best Sellers Rank: #104,254 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Exploration & Discovery #59 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Cars, Trains & Things That Go > Boats & Ships #331 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Survival Stories

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 5-9 - McKernan brings Ernest Shackleton's 1914 expedition to the Antarctic alive through the eyes of its youngest crew member. Perce Blackborow, 18, hides in a cramped locker for two days until the Endurance is at sea before revealing his presence as a stowaway. Given a chance to disembark at South Georgia Island, he signs up as a steward and a gruff Shackleton insists that he write to his family: "Tell them what god-awful mischief you've got yourself into." The ill-fated ship is

crushed in the ice hundreds of miles from the nearest whaling station, forcing the crew to drag its lifeboats and gear across unstable ice floes. A perilous voyage takes them to Elephant Island, where they are stranded for months while Shackleton and five others go for help. Perce endures the worst of it, having no feeling in his frostbitten feet. Details of the ensuing amputation of toes are realistic, an example of the author's sharp eye for authenticity. Although fictional, Perce's diary entries add dimension to the character and blend imagination with historical accuracy. Several of the crew members are powerfully brought to life, including Perce's fun-loving mate, Billy; the obsessive rationer, Orde Lees; the compassionate Frank Wild; and Shackleton, the leader they all idolize. Add this suspenseful tale to adventure/survival collections. - Vicki Reutter, Cazenovia High School, NY Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 6-9. This fictionalized account of Ernest Shackleton's 1914-16 Antarctic expedition follows steward Perce Blackborow from the time he stows away on the Endurance through his harrowing experiences in the Antarctic (including the amputation of his toes). Sprinkled throughout the narrative are selections from Blackborow's pseudo-journal record that chronicles ongoing shipboard routines and the camaraderie among crew, in spite of fractious personalities and grim conditions. These passages speak with a seaman's voice and view the events and desperate circumstances through the eyes of the ordinary sailors, not the officers. Based on published and unpublished journals and interviews with Blackborow's family, this gritty survival story is an excellent supplement to nonfiction accounts such as Ice Story (1999) by Elizabeth Kimmel and Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World (2000) by Jennifer Armstrong. An epilogue describing the lives of the sailors after the rescue, a list of sources, a time line, a crew roster, and a bibliography are appended. Linda PerkinsCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

What a riveting story! McKernan tells the story of the Shackleton expedition to Antarctica from the viewpoint of Perce Blackborow, a young man who stowed away aboard the Endurance at the behest of a couple of his friends. Blackborow almost lands in the mouth of killer whales, helps the photographer take pictures from the yardarms, and has his toes amputated during their time of being cast away on Elephant Island after the Endurance is trapped in the ice. As hard as it is for me to understand, Perce still would have gone on the expedition if he had known what lay ahead because of the intrepid leadership of Shackleton, who seemed to be everywhere when a steadying

hand was needed, and because of the camaraderie of the crew. McKernan bases the story on letters, articles, journals, and interviews of the crew. She captures the struggle for survival so well that I needed to remind myself to breathe when the crew members were holding their breath. What courage most of the men show! Perce's own struggles with fear that he would not be strong or brave enough come across as so real. This book is a good read for any teen or adult, but I especially recommend it for young men who need to see manhood from the point of view of someone who is not a sports hero. Men like Ernest Shackleton and Perce Blackborow are real men, a rare thing.

Prompt and as expected. Thank you.

This book is a fictionalized version of Shackleton's and his crew's year and a half ordeal near Antarctica (they never actually landed on the continent itself). The author does a great job giving the reader a feel for what it may have been like to be there. At the end of the book she explains why she presented things the way she did. A great survival story that shows that no matter how powerful we humans think we are, mother nature is more powerful.

A good novelization of the voyage, from someone's else's point of view. Really good fun, a good spirit of adventure. Highly enjoyable.

Inspiring novelization of a true story. On every page there is something to grab the reader. Do no be put off by its classification as a children's book, this is a great read.

This story sweeps me into the Antarctic and helps me feels the choices each character makes in a difficult situation. I love this author.

"Shackleton's Stowaway" is a fabulous piece of historical fiction. Well-researched, the characters come alive in this compelling story of survival, hope, and courage. The writing is excellent, and the story a real attention-getter for children. The virtues of another time come to life under McKernan's creative crafting of an unforgettable story.

We had checked out the book at the public library, because my son read it in school (8th grade), but he was so fascinated by it, that he recommended it to buy it and that everyone in the family should

read it.

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