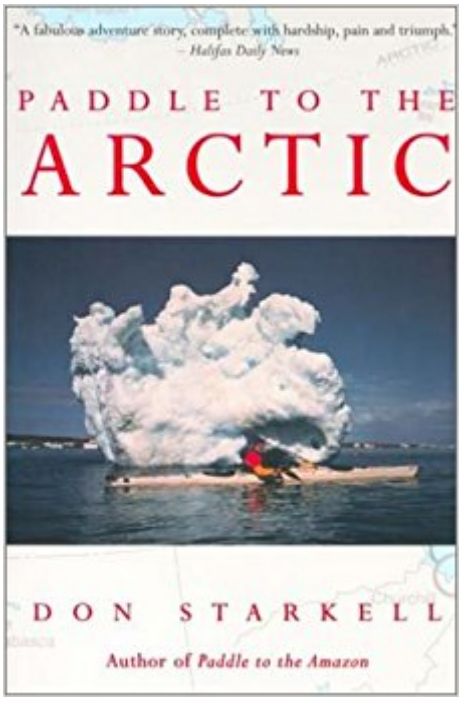
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Paddle To The Arctic: The Incredible Story Of A Kayak Quest Across The Roof Of The World



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Synopsis

After his astounding 12,000-mile canoe trip from Winnipeg down to the (recounted in his bestseller Paddle to the on page 48), Don Starkell decided to paddle a kayak from Hudson Bay 3,000 miles through the Northwest Passage. This is Don's diary of this journey from Churchill, Manitoba, to Tuktoyaktuk, close to Alaska, a voyage by kayak (paddled on water or dragged on a sled over the ice) that took him three Arctic summers and almost cost him his life. Through this compelling book we find ourselves sharing his blazing, driving determination to reach his goal, as he closes in on his destination, with his supplies running out and his ocean highway freezing over, making death a near certainty. Armchair travel at its best.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Don Starkell has a thing about paddling. In 1980, he won a place in the Guinness Book of World Records by paddling a canoe 12,000 miles from Winnipeg, Canada, to the mouth of the in BelÃƒÂ©m, Brazil. Ten years later, he decided instead to head north across the top of the world; this time he took a kayak. Paddle to the Arctic is the account of his journey, presented in diary form and illustrated with 24 pages of photographs and 12 maps. Starkell's window of opportunity was small; he had only the months between June and September to cover the 3,000 miles from Churchill to Tuktoyaktuk before the winter freeze set in. In all, he made three attempts before finally reaching his goal. The challenges were extreme: terrible storms, ice, capsizes, even polar bears. At times, he was forced to drag his kayak over impassable ice flows; at others, he nearly died from starvation. In the end, however, he achieved what seemed impossible: conquering the Northwest Passage in

an Inuit kayak, a feat never before accomplished. Paddle to the Arctic is a hair-raising chronicle of one man’s epic quest and eventual triumph. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Don StarkellÃ Â (December 7, 1932 Ã¢â ¬â œ January 28, 2012) was a Canadian adventurer, diarist and author, perhaps best known for his achievements inÃ Â canoeing.

Another amazing trip from Don Starkell, this story is truly amazing, I found myself talking out loud as I read through some the episodes detailed in the book. I Would have loved it if Vicki had been given a chance to write a chapter or two, giving her perspective on things, I think she sounds like one tough lady. I am not sure if I would like Don Starkell if I met him, but personality issues aside you have to take your hat off to the man he is one driven adventurer. Both his books rank in my top ten of kayak adventure books.

Having read his previous book, "Paddle to the ", I was ready for more Don Starkell adventures. I have to admit that I had to grit my teeth through the first few chapters of this one. He blunders into the journey very unprepared which would normally be forgiveable but he just seems to completely mentally unravel. After that the book smoothes out and becomes interesting. Like previous reviewers it’s hard for me to stomach his almost suicidal lack of preparation but that’s part of what makes it such an adventure. This is not a how-to book on arctic expeditions. It’s not a how-not-to book either. It’s an interesting story by a very driven human being. I’d recommend reading "Paddle to the " then reading this book. If you’re anal about properly preparing for expeditions, etc. then you most likely won’t enjoy it.

When I first read this book, some of the adventures seemed so implausibly stupid that I suspected that the story was a hoax. Rest assured, the events described - however improbable - really did take place. The book is a must read for anyone contemplating solo adventures in the Arctic, if for no other reason then to dissuade them. However, Starkell is hardly a suitable role model; those who are familiar with his adventure have described him as "a danger to himself and everybody around him". Nor can much be said for his character; he almost killed his partner by forcing her on when she was seriously ill, yet in his account of the episode, he talks of nothing but how frustrating it was to be behind schedule.For a truly heroic account of this and other adventures, I highly recommend the account of the late Victoria Jason, who accompanied him on his first two trips. Her book,

Kabloona in the Yellow Kayak: One Woman’s Journey through the North West Passage, is an inspiring account of courage and generosity made all the more remarkable by the fact that all the while she was battling what turned out to be a terminal illness. Despite all obstacles, she nonetheless succeeded where Starkell failed -- and kept all her fingers and toes to boot.

I read Don Starkell’s first book, "Paddle to the " and it was amazing. So I had to read this, when I found out about it. What he had to go through was awful. I can’t imagine anyone paddling a canoe in that kind of cold because they wanted to.

It’s not as good compared to Paddle to the . There’s adventure yes, but less interaction with people so I think it’s less interesting.

Although no one in our family intends to kayak in the arctic, we each found this book highly interesting especially for those who kayak as our family does. We wanted to read about people who kayak in the arctic and the challenges involved with it. Highly recommended for anyone who enjoys kayaking.

This is one crazy adventurer. Good photos . The paddler is now deceased and shows the spirit of the true adventurer,

I was simultaneously intrigued and repelled by this book. Starkell’s story is told in first person narrative, and in the course of his journey we learn a lot about this man’s complex character and motivations. From the beginning, it is apparent that he is haunted by having reached his 60th birthday. As he tells the story of his exceedingly hazardous journey, the tale takes on an almost ritualistic quality. The journey becomes a pilgrimage through which Starkell is attempting to exorcise the demon of approaching old age and infirmity. The ritualistic atmosphere is heightened by the hypnotic and obsessive ambition that drives this man.What intrigued me about the book was Starkell’s honesty and the incredible story he tells. Whether you like the man or not (and it is apparent that many reviewers do not) his story is compelling, and I found myself utterly absorbed, particularly towards the end of the book when it becomes clear that he is going to lose the race against the fast-approaching winter and ice. I also appreciated that Starkell tells his story honestly. The fear, loneliness, regrets, and doubts that afflict him throughout his journey are there for all to see.However, while Starkell’s single-mindedness can make for a fascinating read, it is also repelling

in some respects. I couldn’t help but draw comparisons between his attitude and those of some early arctic explorers who sought to "conquer" the land, and who felt nothing for the land itself or the people inhabiting it. Starkell’s ambition unfortunately insulates him -- and, consequently, the reader -- from both the stark beauty of the arctic and the culture of the people who have lived there for centuries.I could not put the book down because of its classic portrayal of a tragic figure. Starkell’s obsessive behavior broods over the tale and creates an atmosphere of impending doom. Like Ahab, he cannot abandon his quest and he blindly pursues his goal with utter disregard of the potentially lethal consequences to himself and others. His tragically flawed character drives his paddling companions away, leaving him to face the majority of his arctic journey alone, and ultimately nearly destroys him. While I would not want Don Starkell as a paddling companion, I respect his accomplishment and I thoroughly enjoyed his book.

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