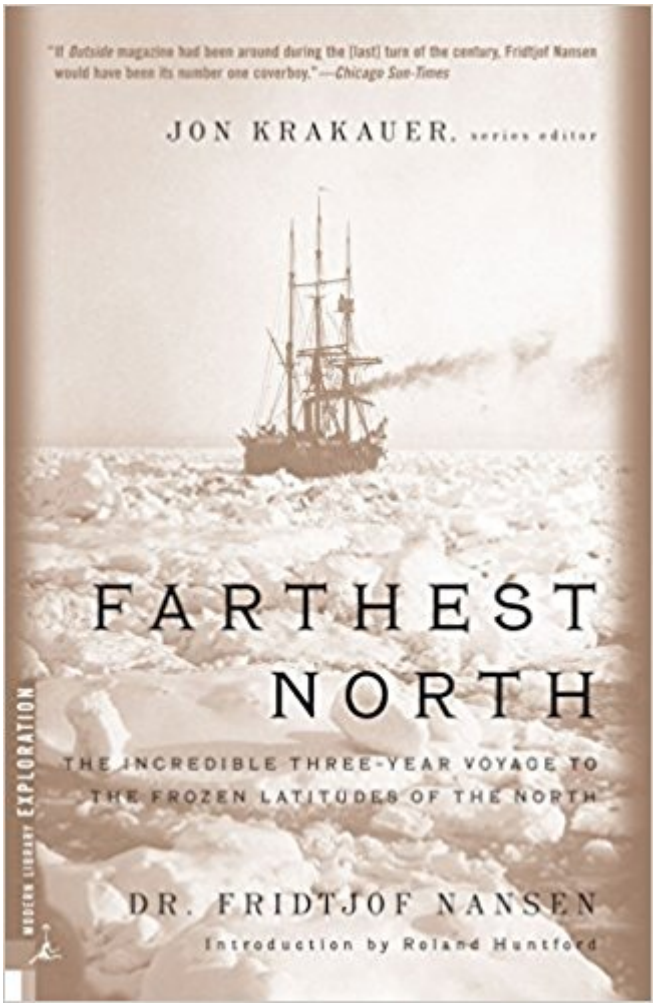
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Farthest North: The Incredible Three-Year Voyage To The Frozen Latitudes Of The North (Modern Library Exploration)



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Synopsis

In 1893, Fridjtof Nansen set sail in theÃ Â Fram, a ship specially designed and built to be frozen into the polar ice cap, withstand its crushing pressures, and travel with the seaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s drift closer to the North Pole than anyone had ever gone before. Experts said such a ship couldn't be built and that the voyage was tantamount to suicide.Ã Â This brilliant first-person account, originally published in 1897, marks the beginning of the modern age of exploration. Nansen vividly describes the dangerous voyage and his 15-month-long dash to the North Pole by sledge. Farthest NorthÃ Â is an unforgettable tale and a must-read for any armchair explorer.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Modern Library has unearthed a classic. The long out-of-print Farthest North, one of the first titles in the library's Exploration series, recounts Dr. Fridtjof Nansen's epic 1893 pursuit of the North Pole. Like Jon Krakauer, the series' editor, Nansen was the chronicler of one his age's most sensational adventures. But he was also much more: statesman and explorer, scientist and sex symbol, Nansen's singular character and remarkable spirit demand attention and respect. It's hard to fathom how a story with such an alluring hero was forgotten in the first place. The good doctor entered the limelight after his landmark first crossing of Greenland in 1888. Shortly after, he concocted a brilliant (or lunatic, depending on whom you asked) scheme to conquer the pole. He and a small crew would freeze a specially designed boat in the ice and drift with the Arctic current, which he believed would carry him from the coast of Siberia northwest to the pole. In mid-voyage,

he realized that the current would not carry him far enough. Undaunted, he and a companion set out across the ice with a dogsled. Nansen was left for dead, but when he stumbled upon another exploration team more than a year later--having reached farther north than anyone before him--he returned to Norway an international sensation. This book, the chronicle of that journey, was hurriedly written to capitalize on that sensation. Penned in only two months, it lacks literary polish, but Nansen’s eye for detail and indomitable spirit shine through. Because he wrote while still thawing from his adventures, his story has an exciting immediacy, one that the passing of a century has done little to diminish. As a historical document, as an epic adventure, and as a revival of a worthy hero long forgotten, Farthest North is a tale well worth remembering. --Andrew Nieland

"Nansen was the Chuck Yeager of polar exploration."Ã¢â ¬â •The New York Times Book ReviewIn 1893 Fridtjof Nansen set sail for the North Pole in the Fram, a ship specially designed to be frozen into the polar ice cap, withstand its crush-ing pressures, and travel north with the sea’s drift. Experts said that such a ship couldn’t be built and that the mission was tantamount to suicide. Farthest North, first published in 1897 to great popular appeal, is the stirring first-person account of the Fram and her historic voyage. Nansen tells of his expedition’s struggle against snowdrifts, ice floes, polar bears, scurvy, gnawing hunger, and the seemingly endless polar night that transformed the Fram into a "cold prison of loneliness." Once it became clear that the Fram could drift no farther, Nansen and crew member Hjalmar Johansen set out on a harrowing fifteen-month sledge journey to reach their destination by foot, which required them to share a sleeping bag of rotting reindeer fur and to feed the weaker sled dogs to the stronger ones. In the end, they traveled 146 miles farther north than any Westerner had gone before, representing the greatest single gain in polar exploration in four centuries. Farthest North is an unforgettable story that marks the beginning of the modern age of exploration and is a must-read for the armchair adventurer.Born in Norway in 1861, Fridtjof Nansen was a renowned explorer, author, artist, athlete, oceanographer, and statesman. In 1922 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He died, a national hero, in 1930.Jon Krakauer is the author of Into Thin Air, which was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, and Into the Wild. His work has appeared in many magazines, including Outside, Smithsonian, and National Geographic. He chose the books in the Modern Library Exploration series for their literary merit and historical significanceÃ¢â ¬â •-and because he found them such a pleasure to read.

I loved this book but admittedly would not have done so if it had been my first polar read. It is dense, and takes some time to digest. You are basically reading a diary. I found it much easier to get

through than "The Worst Journey in the World" which I unfortunately had to put down after a hundred or so pages. I would recommend to the novice polar reader to start with some books that are little more well known like "The Endurance" and tend to get you hooked and wanting more. I walked away from this book with such a high level of respect for the Norwegian polar explorers of that time period. They were very bright and their logic and problem solving skills never ceased to impress me. They plan and organize on a whole different level. Their adaptation to their environment is unparalleled. Also, I think it is worth mentioning I never read a negative word from Dr. Nansen regarding any of his crew or their abilities, this is something very rare with people who are forced to live in close quarters together for years on end. They conducted themselves like adults and cared for each other as though they were brothers. What a pleasure it is to read the descriptions of nature from someone who was born, educated, and lived through that time period. Nansen was quite eloquent and seemed a bit of a romantic as well. What a great book, recommended for the advanced polar reader.

Been reading this book for a few days, really like this information an history aspect and pictures in the book.

I’ve read quite a few arctic expeditions which were all very exciting, but this story is just plain fascinating. It is so well written that it actually makes you wish you were there. The expedition planning began by trying to defeat all the failures of previous expeditions: ships being crushed by ice, scurvy, crew illnesses, insufficient food, cold, crew conflicts, etc. I loved every page.

My bucket list includes a trip to one day see the Fram.. the ship that made this incredible journey possible as well as taking Roald Amundsen to Antartica where he was the first man to reach the south pole.This book details a great voyage by brave men who put their lives on the line to test a theory. I was very interested in the construction and design of the ship .It was a definite sucess and i think the north pole would have been reached by Nansen if he had waited onboard until it was further north. a great read and a great ship.

I found this read to be very entertaining and educational. It was amazing to find out how they built the ship and the equipment they took aboard. It also was an honest account of the travel. Some parts of the book seemed to somewhat drag on but that was precisely the authors situation and it gave you something of an appreciation of their situation. The people that went on this trek were

some amazing individuals. A testament to human endeavors of exploration regardless of what the destination is.

Do recommend the reading. Exciting story that take us to another era. Dr. Nansen narrative takes you to the heart of the action and will make you dream about new adventures.

If you are a fan of Arctic and Antarctic adventure stories then this is one you don’t want to miss. The great explorer Fridtjof Nansen left Norway in 1893 on the Fram, a ship especially designed to withstand the pressure of the frozen northern sea. Nansen’s intention was to drift, locked in the ice, to the North Pole. Eventually, he determines that his theory of drifting to his destination will not be possible, so he and another crewman leave the ship and continue towards the Pole by dogsled. The Fram continues drifting in the ice and Nansen and his partner have no hope of returning to the ship. The story unfolds over a period of three years and you can’t turn the pages fast enough to find out what happens to Nansen and the crew of the Fram.

Excellent book. One of 4 of my favorite "stuck in the ice, starved, cold, and isolated, how they survive, etc." A page turner.

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