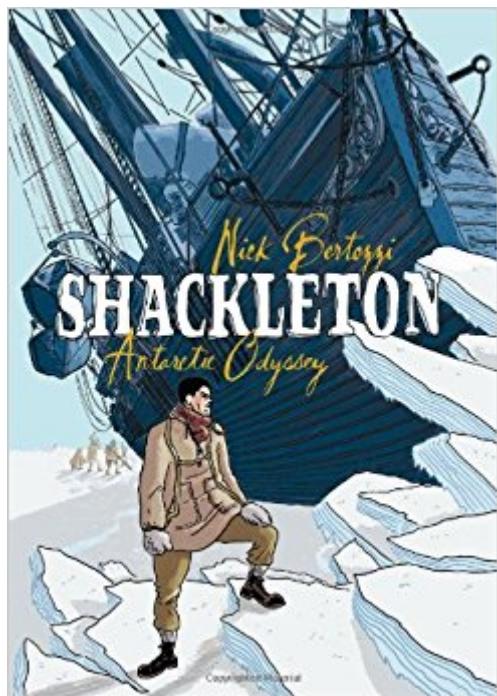


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Shackleton: Antarctic Odyssey



Synopsis

A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER Ernest Shackleton was one of the last great Antarctic explorers, and he led one of the most ambitious Antarctic expeditions ever undertaken. This is his story, and the story of the dozens of men who threw in their lot with him - many of whom nearly died in the unimaginably harsh conditions of the journey. It's an astonishing feat - and was unprecedented at the time - that all the men in the expedition survived. Shackleton's expedition marked the end of a period of romantic exploration of the Arctic and the Antarctic, and this is as much a book about the encroaching modern world as it is about travel. But Nick Bertozzi has documented this remarkable journey with such wit and fiendish attention to detail that it's impossible not to get caught up in the drama of the voyage. Shackleton is a phenomenal accompaniment to Bertozzi's earlier graphic novel about great explorers, Lewis & Clark.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: GN620L (What's this?)

Paperback: 128 pages

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Best Sellers Rank: #683,318 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > Exploration & Discovery #40 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Comics & Graphic Novels > History #44 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Comics & Graphic Novels > Biography

Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up "Like Bertozzi's Lewis & Clark (First Second, 2011), this is another graphic novel focusing on the real lives of explorers. Ernest Shackleton is most famous for his plan to cross the Antarctic by foot, which was a miserable failure (their ship Endurance was crushed by the ice, and the crew was stranded for months on end) and yet defied incredible odds (all of the men in the expedition

survived). The story is told primarily through dialogue, which helps to personalize this chapter in history, but the informational text and maps will help readers grasp the full impact of the challenges the men faced on this expedition. The book is filled with humanizing touches, like the ways the men kept up morale with practical jokes and playing games together on the ice. Like the famous photographs of Shackleton's expedition, Bertozzi's black-and-white artwork captures both the bleakness and the majesty of the surrounding snow and ice. The cover image is especially gripping, as Shackleton stands on broken slabs of ice while his trapped ship tilts ominously behind him. This book is an excellent choice for readers who enjoy nonfiction, graphic novels, explorers, true adventure, and impossible dreams. "Andrea Lipinski, New York Public Library

Earnest Shackleton made several attempts to reach the South Pole in his career as an explorer, but he never managed to see it. Bertozzi's latest, much in the same spirit of his well-received Lewis & Clark (2011), covers one such expedition, during which Shackleton and his crew spent almost two years in and out of ice packs, drifting in lifeboats, and desperately trying to find a way back to civilization. For all the peril, though, the slightly obsessive (but never foolhardy) Shackleton comes across as an exceptional leader, maintaining a positive, enterprising attitude and never losing his probably life-saving spirit of camaraderie. Bertozzi eschews all narrative explanation, relying solely on dialogue among the crew and the detailed black-and-white panels to tell the story. The snow- and ice-bound journey is the perfect match for Bertozzi's minimal style "vast stretches of white become gasp-worthy, desolate vistas. The result is stark but effective, and it only serves to underscore the tense drama of the harrowing journey beset by seemingly endless obstacles.

Perfect for fans of real-life adventure stories. Grades 8-12. --Sarah Hunter

This is our third or fourth time through books on the Shackleton expedition. Here's what this book has to offer: Decent drawings of the Antarctic Circle, Plans for the crossing attempt, Excellent drawings of the ice - bergs, potholes, leads, glaciers, ice fields, crevasses, ... the ice is extraordinary, Decent characterization, Unibrow Shackleton (how else would you know who he is?), Great depiction of the breakup of the ship

Artwork that is perfect balance of simplicity and intricacy, with a story that is packed with detail yet still lively and compelling. Humor gleams through every so often on this death-defying adventure, which is very clearly told by a respectful and passionate author.

Both my boys loved it.

Great story to start with, well presented.

fast shipping great comic book

I have been reading about polar explorations for over 20 years now and come to this very well versed in Shackleton and the Endurance expedition. I'm not sure what I expected from this, but I am increasingly enamored of :01 as a publishing house and thought that, at the least, this would be fun. (I have not yet read Bertozzi's previous book on the Lewis and Clark expedition.) I confess to being amazed here. Not so much by the art work, though the minimalist b&w suits the story very well, nor so much by the breadth and scope - this is very to the point; there is very little background or biography of any of the principals, including Sir Ernest. No, what amazes me is Bertozzi's ability to humanize the expedition, to turn these historical figures into people, and to do so with the simplest of touches. Rather than spend a great deal of space and ink on the "heroic" nature of the ordeal, he focuses on the personal and the mundane. Rather than paint in larger than life strokes, he presents us with a series of miniatures that illuminate these men and what their lives on the ice were like. Example: rather than provide a "tour" of the Endurance and provide "specs", Bertozzi uses an escaped sled dog's romp through the under-decks and a cutaway of the ship. We get the same information and sense of scale, but in a novel way that lets us relate to these men AS men. In this case, annoyed men trying to corral a runaway dog. It is touches like this that make this thin graphic work a valuable addition to polar literature. These touches do not in any way diminish the ordeal that Shackleton and his men went through. On the contrary, it rather ennobles them. They quickly become real to us. Not in a particular, biographical way, but in a personal-in-the-universal way. I am really very impressed with the achievement here. Certainly, anyone looking for the depth, details and inner workings of the expedition will find this wanting and will be better served by something like Huntford's terrific biography of Shackleton, or one of the many available volumes recounting the plight of the Endurance and its crew. But this is a fine and true portrait that deserves attention not just from graphic fans, but anyone interested in the universal, human story as well.

Nick Bertozzi's Shackleton makes for a great adventure story told in graphic format. He does a remarkable job of including a lot of details and keeping the story moving. A story like this can easily get bogged down in details, especially considering how much time Shackleton and his men spent

waiting. The black and white illustrations work well for an environment that was mostly white and gray. I think what came through strongest to me was the sheer determination of Shackleton, there is no other reason that the whole crew would have survived the brutal conditions. It's not only a great survival story, but a story about the importance of having good leaders. The sheer amount of detail in the illustrations is amazing although it does make some of the illustrations kind of small. Despite the lack of color, Bertozzi still manages to convey the difficult conditions the men had to live with, the cold, the wet, and the lack of a variety of foods (who wants to live on dog, seal, and penguin for months, yuck!).

I've always found Shackleton's Antarctic voyage to be fascinating - mainly because he managed to get all his men back home without a single one dying. So I was looking forward to this book. Visually it's not exactly stunning but the amount of white does the location justice. There are some nice bits about some of the things the crew did for fun and some of the sacrifices made in order to get everyone back home from the doomed endeavor. However, Bertozzi has a tendency to try and make light of things rather than allowing us to fully be immersed in the cold and potential perilous landscape. There is never a real sense of danger in the text. Maybe because of the survival thing. There is a nice list of resources at the end and Bertozzi does acknowledge that doing the whole of events justice would have been a book double the size. As an introduction Shackleton: Antarctic Odyssey is good, but it is by no means exhaustive.

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