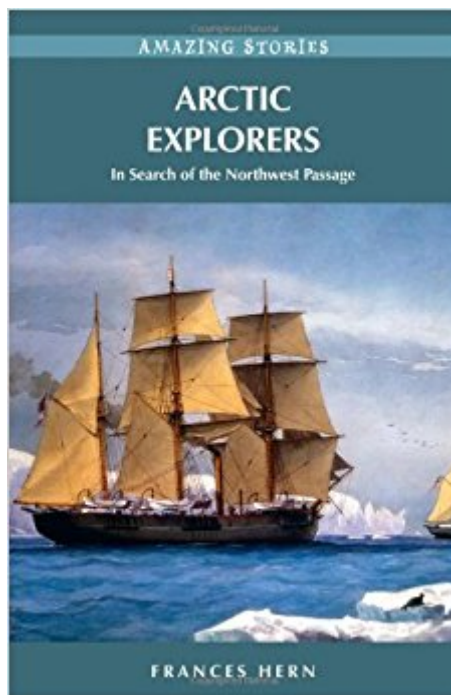




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Arctic Explorers: In Search Of The Northwest Passage (Amazing Stories) (Amazing Stories (Heritage House))



Synopsis

There is no saga in Canadian history as full of hardship, catastrophe and mystery as the search for the Northwest Passage. Since the 15th century, the ice-choked Arctic waterway has been sought and traveled by daring men seeking profit, glory or a chance to test themselves against the merciless North. Frances Hern takes us aboard ships with the explorers whose names are memorialized on modern maps of northern Canada: Martin Frobisher, daring privateer in the service of Elizabeth I; Henry Hudson, a navigator who may have driven his crew to mutiny; John Franklin, whose last voyage became an enduring northern mystery; the talented Orkneyman John Rae, a surgeon and surveyor on the trail of Franklin. Also vividly recounted are the grueling overland treks of Samuel Hearne; the heroic exploits of Roald Amundsen, leader of the first expedition to traverse the passage; and the incredible voyages of Henry Larsen, captain of the RCMP vessel St. Roch.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Frances Hern grew up in Birmingham, England near Tolkien territory. An avid reader and writer, she now lives in Golden, BC, where she writes poetry, non-fiction and children's fiction. Although she didn't enjoy high school history she has come to realize how strongly the past influences the present and aims to write historical fiction and non-fiction that will entertain readers.

Sir Hugh Willoughby was waiting aboard the 'Bona Esperanza' for the pilot to guide his flotilla of three ships into the harbour at Vardo, on the most northeastern tip of Norway, when a storm hit.

Gale force gusts channelled down the cliffs and battered the sailboats. Afraid they would be smashed against the rocks, Willoughby gave the order to run back out to sea where his men struggled to furl the sails so the wind wouldn't tear them to shreds. The sailors spent an anxious night adrift on an ocean gone wild, where icy mist obscured any warning of approaching shoals or icebergs. It was August 1553 and Willoughby had been commissioned to find a shorter and safer route from England to Cathay (China). He was immensely relieved when the storm blew itself out in the early hours of the morning. By daybreak the mist had dispersed, but that wasn't the only thing that had gone - there was no sign of the 'Edward Bonaventure' - they were now without their chief navigator. Willoughby's men tried to sail the 'Bona Esperanza' and the 'Bona Confidentia' back to Vardo but they couldn't find it. They couldn't find any land at all. They sailed across the Barents Sea for seven weeks, hopelessly lost, and finally found a desolate but sheltered nook in the mouth of a river where they anchored. September was almost gone and daylight hours were fast diminishing. Ice began to coat the two ships and the water around them. They had little choice but to stay there until spring. Russian fishermen found the ships the following summer. The English sailors were all dead but, strangely, they showed no signs of discomfort from scurvy, starvation, or freezing, which were the most likely causes of death. Sir Hugh Willoughby was seated at his desk, his logbook before him, pen in hand. Other men had died while they were eating, with spoons still in their mouths. One had been opening a locker. Even the dogs looked as though they had died instantly and without warning. The fishermen stared at the disturbing scene and wondered what unspeakable event had caused the deaths of these unfortunate men. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Very comprehensive. It covers the major explorers.

Good book a very nice read .

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