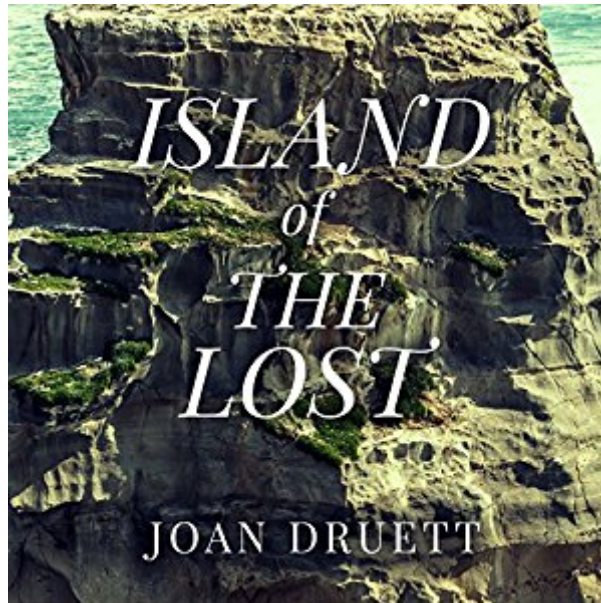




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Island Of The Lost: Shipwrecked At The Edge Of The World



Synopsis

Auckland Island is a godforsaken place in the middle of the Southern Ocean, 285 miles south of New Zealand. With year-round freezing rain and howling winds, it is one of the most forbidding places in the world. To be shipwrecked there means almost certain death. In 1864, Captain Thomas Musgrave and his crew of four aboard the schooner Grafton wreck on the southern end of the island. Utterly alone in a dense coastal forest, plagued by stinging blowflies and relentless rain, Captain Musgrave inspires his men to take action. With barely more than their bare hands, they build a cabin and, remarkably, a forge where they manufacture their tools. Incredibly, at the same time on the opposite end of the island, the Invercauld wrecks during a horrible storm. Nineteen men stagger ashore. Unlike Captain Musgrave, the captain of the Invercauld falls apart given the same dismal circumstances. His men fight and split up; some die of starvation, others turn to cannibalism. Only three survive. Musgrave and all of his men not only endure for nearly two years, but they also plan their own astonishing escape, setting off on one of the most courageous sea voyages in history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you are fascinated, as I am, by survival stories in the most hostile environments this book is for you. This adventure story is in the same vein, but not quite as enthralling, as the fabulous Shackleton book "Endurance". This subarctic tale details how the will to live, and the ingenious ways people find to do so, combined with a strong leader and some luck (and many many seals)

make it possible to subsist, or not, for months albeit at the basest level. What would you do if you were starving and looking at a cute helpless seal pup? A true informative narrative based on the journals of survivors and lots of other research by the author.

A great story of survival against amazing odds. Only 5 in the shipwrecked crew, yet amazingly they all survived. Well told, solidly documented, and fascinating to read. A real page-turner for lovers of non-fiction.

Takes some of the luster off the idea of being shipwrecked. Maybe with warmer climes it would be more tolerable. All-in-all a very good read. Got me to pick up my kindle again!

Author masterfully wove the stories of two shipwrecks on the same island and of the different outcomes for the castaways of each based on the written accounts of the survivors. Remarkable story of one group's resourcefulness, cooperation, skill and hard work that led to their survival; and comparatively, the lack of leadership, effort, and cooperation that led to the demise of nearly all the castaways of the other group. Well done - like Robinson Crusoe and The Swiss Family Robinson, with lots of detail - but nonfiction.

This book details the tale of shipwreck and survival. It is a remarkable story of the five man crew of a small vessel stranded on one of the most inhospitable regions of the world. The will to survive and the ingenuity of the crew are central to this story. A parallel story of a second ship wrecked on this island during the same time period provides a tragic counterpoint to the main story. I loved this book and recommend it to fans of real-life adventure stories.

Fascinating story of two ship wrecked crews on a Subantarctic island. One crew is fortunate to have real leaders in the ship's captain and his French friend. The other crew is less fortunate with few crew members with leadership skills. It is almost impossible to believe one crew survived for over 2 years in such a harsh environment subsisting on animals that they killed and a arctic vegetation.

I read this exciting book in record time because I couldn't wait to find out if these men I'd come to know and admire were ever going to make it off this seemingly forgotten, remote, uninhabitable island. There may be some details I skipped over about other shipwrecks but only because I was so focused on the brave, resourceful men of The Grafton!

Well researched and well written. History lovers will love all the additional information surrounding the individuals, nautical terms, geography, and the time period. Followup on the "rest of their lives" of the survivors was especially satisfying to know.

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