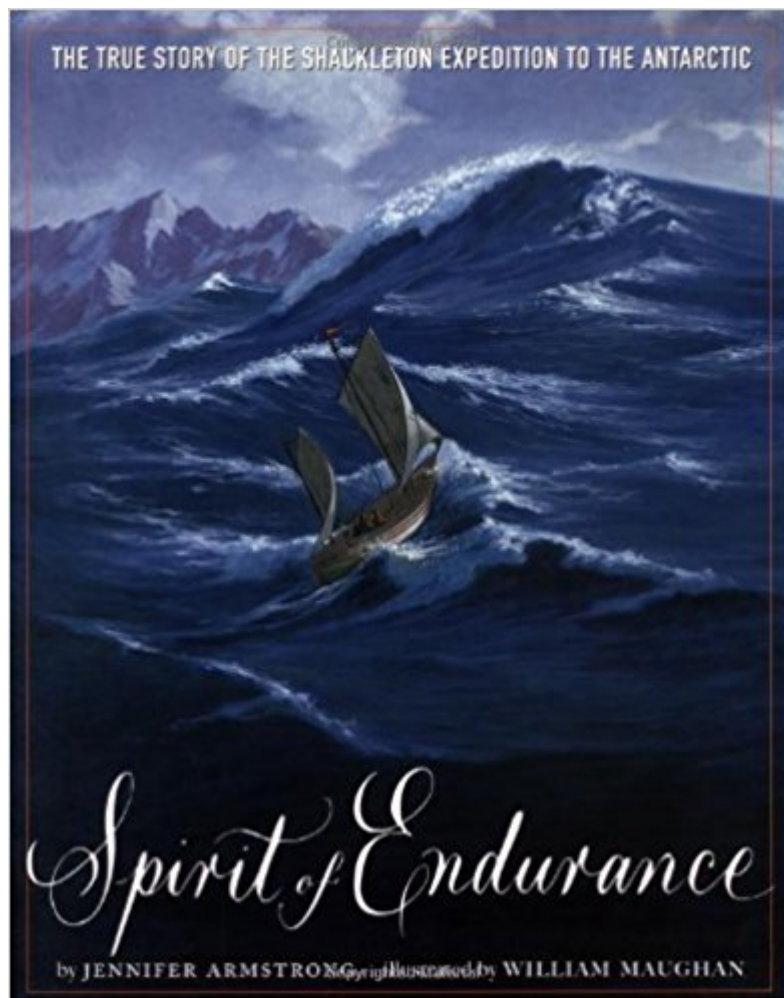




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# **Spirit Of Endurance: The True Story Of The Shackleton Expedition To The Antarctic**



## Synopsis

In August 1914, Sir Ernest Shackleton set out from England in an attempt to lead the first expedition across the Antarctic continent. What followed was one of the most extraordinary survival stories in history: a ship trapped and then wrecked by ice; an expedition marooned, first on the constantly shifting Antarctic pack, then on a remote, uninhabited island; a daring open boat journey across the world's most violent ocean; a trek over unmapped mountains; and finally an amazing rescue. Jennifer Armstrong's *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World* received widespread praise and won the Orbis Pictus Award. Now she tells the *Endurance* story for a younger audience, in an oversize format with color paintings re-creating the detail and drama of the expedition's ordeal.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 790L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Crown Books for Young Readers (September 12, 2000)

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Product Dimensions: 11.4 x 0.4 x 14.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #942,568 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #109 in [Books > Travel > Polar Regions > Antarctica](#) #162 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Exploration & Discoveries](#) #351 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Exploration & Discovery](#)

Age Range: 8 - 10 years

Grade Level: 3 - 5

## Customer Reviews

This distillation of Armstrong's *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World* into picture book format masterfully foreshortens the key events of Ernest Shackleton's ill-fated expedition aboard the *Endurance* to Antarctica. Trapped in pack ice in January 1915, Shackleton and his crew survived for nearly a year in the frozen polar wasteland, then traveled 100 miles by open lifeboat to an uninhabited islet. Shackleton and a handpicked team sailed a further 800 miles "across the stormiest ocean in the world, facing 100-foot waves, bitter temperatures, and hurricane-force

winds," then trekked across the uncharted mountains and glaciers of South Georgia Island to a whaling station. After several attempts, Shackleton took a Chilean steamer back to the islet and saved every member of his crew. Although the opening is a bit abrupt, Armstrong's account of these astonishing feats of fortitude ripples with drama. Only those who have read her longer version of the events will miss the copious quotes that capture the voices of the men and the colorful anecdotes (e.g., Hussey's banjo serenades) she brings so vividly to life in *Shipwreck*. The book's oversize format hints at the scope of Shackleton's larger-than-life adventure and provides a generous frame for an ample supply of maps, original photographs (including the famous shot of the ice-bound *Endurance*, her hull and rigging covered with a ghostly white frost) and Maughan's panoramic, wide-view paintings. The paintings cannot rival the intrinsic fascination of the photographs, but they are atmospheric and imposingly scaled. Their imaginations stirred, many readers will want to tackle her earlier volume for more of the story. Ages 8-10. (Sept.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 4-6-Written for a younger audience than *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World* (Crown, 1998), this book takes readers into the Antarctic ice pack with Ernest Shackleton and the crew of the *Endurance*. The slender, oversized format is enhanced by numerous black-and-white and sepia-toned photos taken on that ill-fated expedition, a map, plans of the *Endurance*, and a number of dramatic paintings. The robust prose is geared to the needs of the intended audience and is often superimposed on Maughan's large illustrations. This attractive, colorful work is comparable in reading level to K. M. Kostyal's powerful *Trial by Ice* (National Geographic, 1999), and presents a good picture of human survival under almost unimaginable conditions. Patricia Manning, formerly at Eastchester Public Library, NY Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This second hand book looks like new! I enjoyed it myself and several piano students have enjoyed it as well! Thanks!

Do you like to confront impossible problems as you read a story? Do you like to put yourself in virtual contexts from which only top-level, selfless heroics can provide relief? Are you one of the few people who still realize that real events are far more interesting and riveting than fiction? This account of the rather miraculous survival of the members of the Shackleton Expedition reveals models of exemplary human behavior (unassailable focus, commitment to colleagues, and taking carefully-calculated risk) in the face of impending death. Written toward an elementary to middle

school age readers, and also less-chronologically-advanced readers who really know how to think. Excellent visual images.

The current polar explorer Ann Bancroft said she was first inspired to visit Antarctica after the breathtaking pictures and reports of Shackleton's attempts to cross that continent. As she attempts to become part of the first women's team to traverse Antarctica she is passing by Shackleton's Glacier and must be remembering his team and their efforts. The actual photographs of Shackleton's ship in the book *Spirit of Endurance* and the reproduction paintings of each adventure and challenge they faced draw the reader into the tale. Students are fascinated by the hardships the men encountered and endured. The decision regarding the fate of their sled dogs was as heartbreaking to the reader as it must have been to the men of *Endurance*. The remarkable heroism and perseverance of Shackleton and his crew is an inspiration to the adventurers in all of us.

This is the second book we have read about the failed Shackleton expedition to thwart Antarctica in 1914-1916 and it was fantastic. I can't imagine anyone not being fascinated by what these men endured and their ability to cling to hope where there was little to be found. An amazing true story of survival to share with your students.

After reading Alfred Lansing's book of almost the same name (see the previous review), I had an irresistible desire to learn more about the heroic adventures of this Antarctic explorer. For anybody else suffering from Shackleton Fever -- this book is a good choice. Written in association with the American Museum of Natural History, this beautiful volume chronicles the whole expedition in glorious detail and contains dozens of magnificent reproductions of Hurley's original expedition photographs. To reach this book, the plates traveled a long and perilous journey, rescued from shipwreck, dragged across ice flows, through lifeboats, sometimes buried in the snow, or cached in special locations, carefully soldered together to keep out moisture. Frank Hurley was a talented photographer, and his detailed photos give a new dimension to an already engrossing story. Ms. Alexander's account is more detached than that of Lansing -- appropriate for a documentary work. The change in emphasis brings in new details that made the epic even more exciting the second time, and the professionalism of her writing made the book a pleasure to read.-- Auralgo

This is an excellent introduction to Shackleton's aborted Trans-Antarctic Expedition for children. Highly recommended.

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