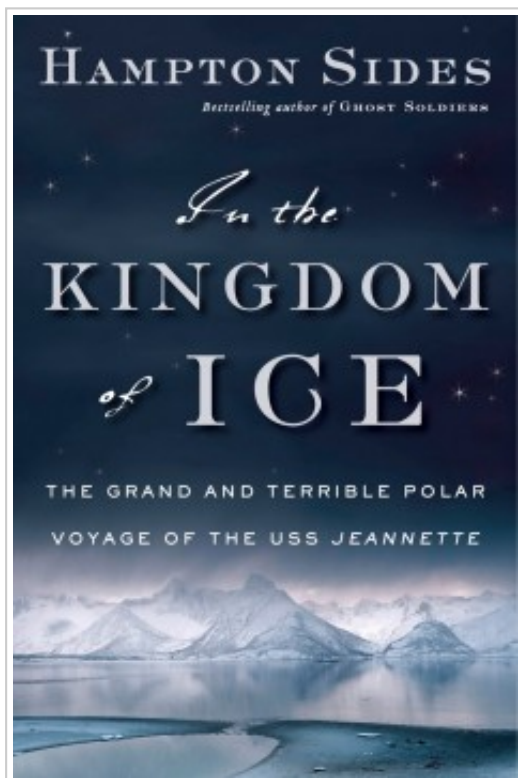


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In the Kingdom of Ice

by Hampton Sides

Price: \$28.95(Hardcover)

Published: August 05, 2014

Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher: New York Times bestselling author Hampton Sides returns with a white-knuckle tale of polar exploration and survival in the Gilded Age

In the late nineteenth century, people were obsessed by one of the last unmapped areas of the globe: the North Pole. No one knew what existed beyond the fortress of ice rimming the northern oceans, although theories abounded. The foremost cartographer in the world, a German named August Petermann, believed that warm currents sustained a verdant island at the top of the world. National glory would fall to whoever could plant his flag upon its shores.

James Gordon Bennett, the eccentric and stupendously wealthy owner of The New York Herald, had recently captured the world's attention by dispatching Stanley to Africa to find Dr. Livingstone. Now he was keen to re-create that sensation...

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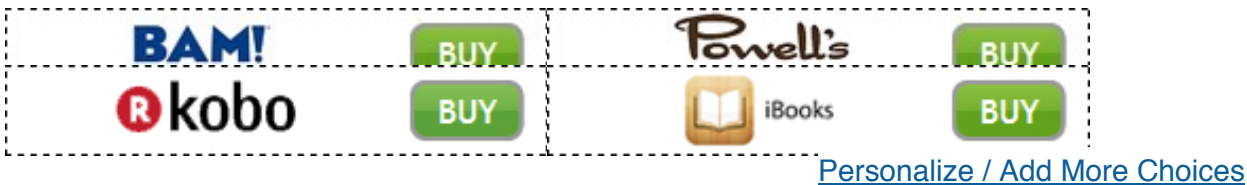
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What We Say

Hampton Sides is one of my favorite authors of popular history. I profiled him when he delivered his breakthrough bestseller "Ghost Soldiers." I wrote a rave when he delivered his biography of Kit Carson and the West with "Blood and Thunder." Now he's delivered another winner, this time about an ill-fated expedition to the North Pole. Sides does his most detailed and nuanced reporting here, capturing all sides of this tale, from the centuries-long delusions about a balmy ocean at the top of the world that led to disastrous planning to the colorful newspaper magnate James Gordon Bennett who made it happen with the hope of advancing science...and selling lots of papers. (He's worthy of a biopic of his own; Bennett sent Stanley after Livingston and intro'd tennis to America among many other stunts.) At the center of it all is the dutiful and determined military man George Washington De Long who becomes enamored with reaching the North Pole despite hating being away from his bride. Her never-delivered love letters to him are a poignant counterpoint to his journey, filled as it is with fascinating shipboard characters (including one man who hides his bout with syphilis, another who's a genius at repair and yet another who becomes bitterly estranged from everyone), narrow escapes, tragedy and triumph. The story is so dramatic, Sides can play it cool here. He weaves together the many strands of this narrative with a new maturity that gives this bid for glory its full due. -- Michael Giltz

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What Others Say

“As our knowledge of the world increases, it must be difficult for audacious explorers to find terra incognita to match their passion. Surely the same frustration holds true for writers in that worthy genre, exploration literature: Haven't all great stories been told? Never underestimate the ingenuity of a first-rate author. Hampton Sides's *In the Kingdom of Ice: The Grand and Terrible Polar Voyage of the USS Jeannette*, which recounts the astonishing tribulations of a group of seafarers determined to be the first men to reach and reconnoiter the North Pole, is **a splendid book in every way**... It would be malicious to ruin the suspense about the fate of the Jeannette's crew... The book is **a marvelous nonfiction thriller**.”

- **The Wall Street Journal**

"**Compelling**....Sides spins a **propulsive** narrative from obscure documents, journals and his own firsthand visits to the Arctic regions visited by the Jeannette and its crew. *In the Kingdom of Ice* makes for **harrowing** reading as it recounts the grim aspects of the explorers' battle for survival: illness, crippling frostbite, snow-blindness and the prospect...

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