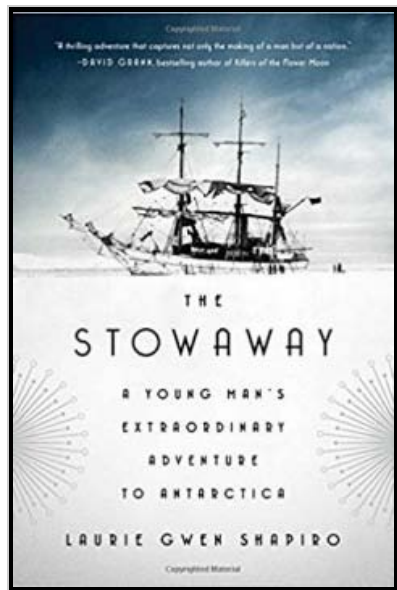


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The Stowaway

A Young Man's Extraordinary Adventure to Antarctica
by Laurie Gwen Shapiro

Price: \$26.00(Hardcover)
Published: January 16, 2018

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Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher: The spectacular, true story of a scrappy teenager from New York's Lower East Side who stowed away on the Roaring Twenties' most remarkable feat of science and daring: an expedition to Antarctica. It was 1928: a time of illicit booze, of Gatsby and Babe Ruth, of freewheeling fun. The Great War was over and American optimism was higher than the stock market. What better moment to launch an expedition to Antarctica, the planet's final frontier? This was the moon landing before the 1960s. Everyone wanted to join the adventure. Rockefellers and Vanderbilts begged to be taken along as mess boys, and newspapers across the globe covered the planning's every stage. The night before the expedition's flagship launched, Billy Gawronski—a skinny, first generation New York City high schooler desperate to escape a dreary future in the family upholstery business—jumped into the Hudson River and snuck aboard. Could he get away with it? From the grimy streets of New York's Lower East Side to the rowdy dance halls of sultry Francophone Tahiti, all the way to Antarctica's blinding white and deadly freeze, Laurie Gwen Shapiro's *The Stowaway* takes you on the unforgettable voyage of a gutsy young stowaway who became an international celebrity, a mascot for an up-by-your bootstraps age.

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About The Author

Laurie Gwen Shapiro
Laurie Gwen Shapiro is an award-winning documentary filmmaker and journalist whose writing has appeared in *New York*, *Slate*, *Aeon*, *The Forward*, and the *Los Angeles Review of Books*. *The Stowaway* is her first full-length work of nonfiction.

Release Info

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What We Say

In the 1920s, a kid in high school became obsessed with the heroes of his day: men who went on dangerous journeys into unknown lands. Billy Gawronski couldn't stop talking and talking about the triumphs of these explorers, especially Richard Byrd. When Byrd announced a trek to Antarctica, Billy was determined to take part. Author Laurie Gwen Shapiro has a fun story to tell -- how can you resist a tale where a kid sneaks onto a ship to stowaway and promptly bumps into not one but

TWO other people doing the same damn thing? Nonetheless, the fact that Gawronski is long dead and the remaining documents about him offer thin material means this book is padded with extraneous detail. It also gives short shrift to another young voyager who probably deserves better but is treated like a nominal villain. What would have been a fascinating article that might have left us wanting more has become a book that leaves us wanting a little less. Still, it's entertaining, interesting and will satisfy those who are as crazy for adventures into parts unknown as the young Billy. -- Michael Giltz

What Others Say

“Shapiro has rescued from oblivion a wondrous tale of exploration. *The Stowaway* is a thrilling adventure that captures not only the making of a man but of a nation.”

— David Grann, bestselling author of *Killers of the Flower Moon* -

“*The Stowaway* proves that fact is stranger and funnier and more amazing than fiction. Laurie Gwen Shapiro artfully draws the reader into the tale of Billy Gawronski, a dreamer and adventurer. Through the wild story of his travels to Antarctica, we see history come vividly to life.”

— Susan Orlean, bestselling author of *Rin Tin Tin* -

“Laurie Gwen Shapiro wrote *The Stowaway* like a Jack London novel: with a sense of adventure, wonderful detail, a lineup of intriguing characters, and above all a great story. This is the best of nonfiction.”

— Mark Kurlansky, bestselling author of *Paper* -

“What has the world come to when sled dogs and short wave radio mix, when wooden sailing barks compete with aeroplanes, when ‘Eskimos’ figuratively dance with flappers, and all of this is captured and disseminated by the first public relations hucksters? Laurie Gwen Shapiro’s *The Stowaway* is magnificent.”

— Bob Drury & Tom Clavin, bestselling authors of *The Heart of Everything That Is* -

“*The Stowaway* tells one of the most engaging, but forgotten, stories from the Age of Exploration. A fascinating and charming book—I highly recommend it!”

— Douglas Preston, bestselling author of *The Lost City of the Monkey God* -

“Laurie Gwen Shapiro's *The Stowaway* is full of twists, turns, and moments of pure wonder—both joy to read and a surprisingly insightful tale of scientific exploration at its generous and courageous best.”

— Deborah Blum, bestselling author of *The Poisoner’s Handbook* -

“A gripping, gritty, mischievous tale from an age of exploration and wonder. *The Stowaway* makes real history read like a boy’s adventure novel.”

— Kevin Baker, bestselling author of *Paradise Alley* -

What You Say

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