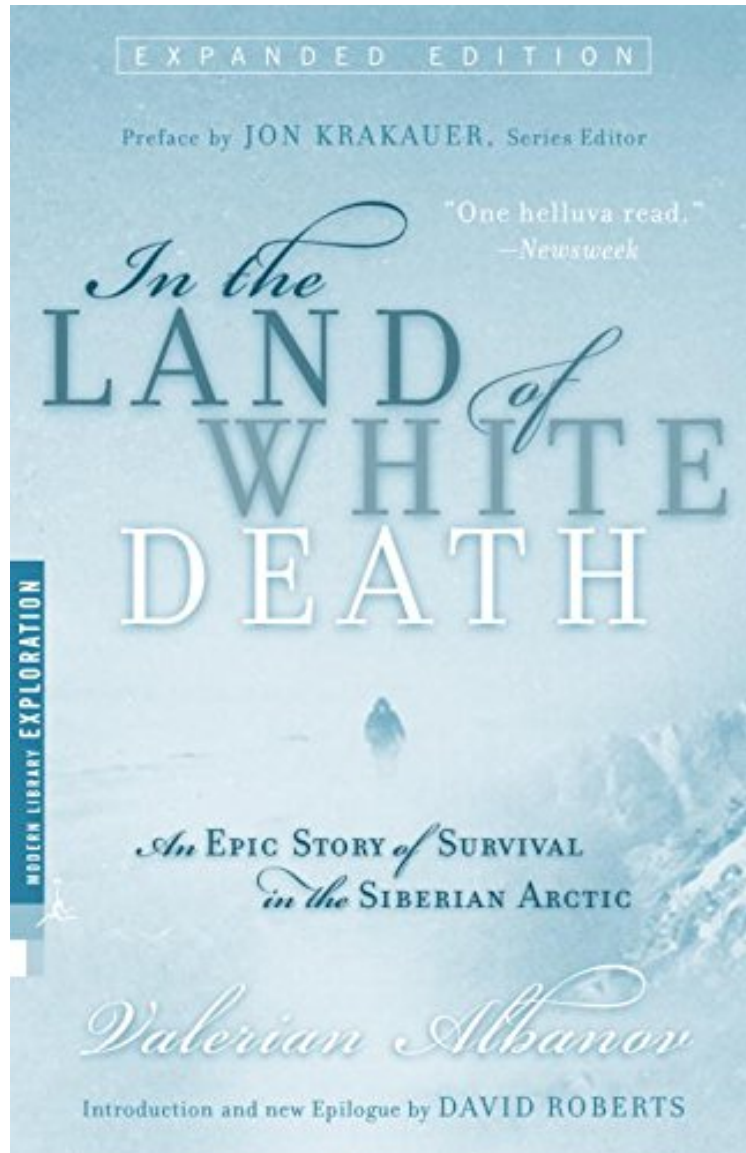


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In the Land of White Death: An Epic Story of Survival in the Siberian Arctic

Valerian Albanov

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Valerian Albanov : In the Land of White Death: An Epic Story of Survival in the Siberian Arctic before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In the Land of White Death: An Epic Story of Survival in the Siberian Arctic:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Russian Arctic Story from 1900sBy Chey CobbThe story is during

the years just prior to the First World War, so it's quite a few years later than most Arctic stories. The crew are sailing the seas to the north of Russia; looking for faster trade routes, similar to the searches for the Northwest Passage expeditions in North America. Like most of these stories, the ship and crew were woefully unprepared, ignorant of any Arctic lore, and huge personality clashes made even good days difficult. After abandoning ship and crossing the ice for months, there was one wrong-headed move after another., which creates a lot of nail-biting incidents. It's written in diary style and is quite an easy and interesting read.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great read during a snowstorm or a Polar Vortex

By Michael Goeller This is an incredible tale of survival, written in a spare style so appropriate to the setting. Picture this: it is 1913 and your ship has been stuck in Arctic ice for over a year, drifting with the floe further north each month. Fearing that you will not escape this icebound existence in the coming year, you decide to get some of your more hardy shipmates together and try to walk to land across the frozen Arctic Ocean, carrying over a month's worth of supplies by sledge and some handmade kayaks to make the final crossing to land. Besides the arduous task of dragging yourself and supplies across the ice, you and your crew face blizzard conditions, polar bears, surprisingly dangerous walruses, malnutrition, and all sorts of surprising challenges (including the dangers of vitamin A poisoning from eating polar bear liver - warning to the wise). Knowing that this is a true story makes it all the more compelling. I read this book every time the winter weather gets me down, just to remind myself that things could be worse than suffering through a week with the Polar Vortex. Highly recommended.¹ of 1 people found the following review helpful. A tale of survival

By Douglas Terry This is a story of survival in the Arctic. In the early 20th century the author sailed as navigator on an ill fated voyage into the Arctic. The ship became locked in ice and eventually the author (of the dairy detailing this story) left the ship with several other men to try to reach islands to their south from which they might be rescued. They had a very rough go of it to say the least with bad ice, lack of food and necessities and attacks by polar bears and walrus. At times the story did seem to become somewhat repetitious with their hardships and could be a bit depressing and a bit long. But after all the hardships and disappointments the author and his companion were taken aboard a ship and got back to Russia. The story was well written. The characters were generally developed. For the most part the editing was good. There were some annoying run together in this Kindle version, especially in the earlier parts of the book, for example "before meto revealed" for :before me to reveal" The intended line was generally obvious with a 2nd look but could be initially confusing especially when the run together occurred at a line break.

In 1912, six months after Robert Falcon Scott and four of his men came to grief in Antarctica, a thirty-two-year-old Russian navigator named Valerian Albanov embarked on an expedition that would prove even more disastrous. In search of new Arctic hunting grounds, Albanov's ship, the Saint Anna, was frozen fast in the pack ice of the treacherous Kara Sea—a misfortune grievously compounded by an incompetent commander, the absence of crucial nautical charts, insufficient fuel, and inadequate provisions that left the crew weak and debilitated by scurvy. For nearly a year and a half, the twenty-five men and one woman aboard the Saint Anna endured terrible hardships and danger as the icebound ship drifted helplessly north. Convinced that the Saint Anna would never free herself from the ice, Albanov and thirteen crewmen left the ship in January 1914, hauling makeshift sledges and kayaks behind them across the frozen sea, hoping to reach the distant coast of Franz Josef Land. With only a shockingly inaccurate map to guide him, Albanov led his men on a 235-mile journey of continuous peril, enduring blizzards, disintegrating ice floes, attacks by polar bears and walrus, starvation, sickness, snowblindness, and mutiny. That any of the team survived is a wonder. That Albanov kept a diary of his ninety-day ordeal—a story that Jon Krakauer calls an "astounding, utterly compelling book," and David Roberts calls "as lean and taut as a good thriller"—is nearly miraculous. First published in Russia in 1917, Albanov's narrative is here translated into English for the first time. Haunting, suspenseful, and told with gripping detail, *In the Land of White Death* can now rightfully take its place among the classic writings of Nansen, Scott, Cherry-Garrard, and Shackleton.

.com In the early 20th-century era of daring polar exploration, the less-trumpeted fishing and hunting expeditions went largely unrecorded. Except, that is, for a recently discovered tale about a Russian hunter and his shipmate. Valerian Albanov's account of his 18-month-long survival in the Siberian Arctic remained unknown until a group of polar-literature enthusiasts rediscovered it in 1997. Translated into English for the first time, *In the Land of White Death* competes with the adventures of famed heroes Robert Falcon Scott, Apsley Cherry-Garrard, and Ernest Shackleton. And like Scott's and Cherry-Garrard's narratives, Albanov's tale is penned from a diary he kept during his remarkable ordeal. Albanov's epic begins in 1914, after he leaves the Saint Anna, a sailing vessel bound for Vladivostok and new hunting territory, 7,000 miles across dangerous water. Only a few months into the voyage, the ship is trapped in pack ice, where it drifts helplessly with the Kara Sea ice flow for nearly one and a half years. With supplies dwindling and no hope of rescue, Albanov, the ship's navigator, and 13 of his colleagues leave the boat and the remaining crew to look for land. Outfitted with sleds and kayaks built from scavenged fragments of the Saint Anna, Albanov begins his 18-month trek to Franz Josef Land with a broken chronometer, scant supplies, and a team of inexperienced men. Facing starvation, subzero temperatures, and the loss of most of his team, Albanov persists, searching for an outpost

rumored to be at Cape Flora, 120 miles from his original starting point. He and his last surviving shipmate survive a litany of amazing mishaps: asleep on an ice flow, they are dumped into frozen water while bound in a sleeping bag; scurvy nearly kills Albanov only a few miles from his destination; and once help arrives, they're caught in the first skirmishes of World War I, a conflict of which they had no knowledge. Albanov's experience is a brief, gripping account of a story that rivals the greatest survival tales in history. The diary style of his tale preserves its emotional authenticity as he trudges his way across the frozen Arctic, and his knack for clear detail only highlights the unbelievable fact that Albanov was lucid enough to write at all during his winter march across a deadly landscape. -- Lolly Merrell

From Publishers Weekly

Between 1912 and 1914, as navigator aboard the doomed Santa Anna, Albanov completed one of the most amazing journeys in the history of Arctic exploration. After the Russian ship became frozen in the polar ice cap, Albanov led 13 members of his ship's crew across the ice and back to civilization. A friend convinced him to publish the harrowing account of how he survived. Although the book was originally published in Russian in 1917, and subsequently translated into French and German, this is its first translation into English. This is a particularly surprising turn, considering the quality of Albanov's writing. Fast-paced yet descriptive, Albanov's prose skillfully depicts the Siberian arctic so the reader can envision his plight. Albanov resists the temptation to embellish his situation, keeping his account true to the diary he kept while making the journey. The reader ends up sympathizing with, but not feeling sorry for, the author, who made the return voyage using makeshift sledges and kayaks and broken navigational equipment, and who dealt with a team of incompetent companions, all but one of whom died on the journey. Here is a vivid portrait of a courageous leader, a skilled explorer and a practical problem solver. 100,000 first printing. (Oct.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

Part of the "Modern Library Exploration" series, this tale of survival in the Siberian Arctic was published in 1917 but is being translated only now. If you're thinking, "Aha, another book inspired by Jon Krakauer's *Into Thin Air*," that's smart: Krakauer is series editor. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.