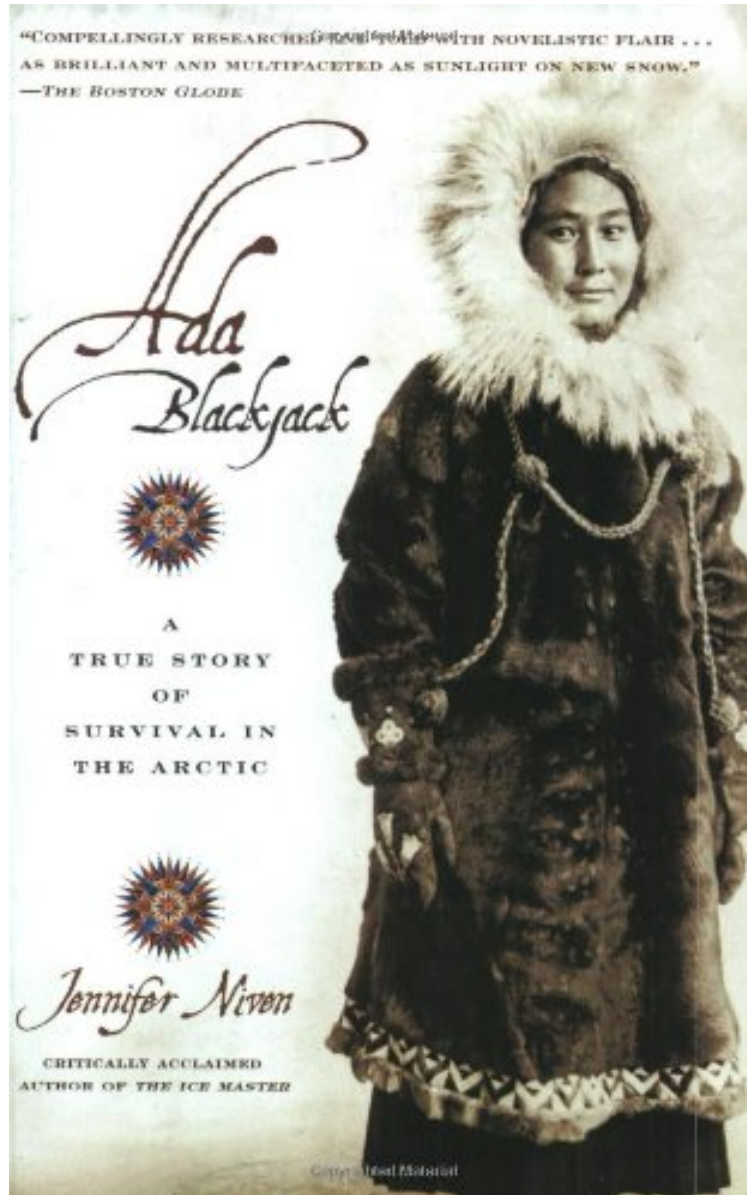


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Ada BlackJack: A True Story of Survival in the Arctic

Jennifer Niven

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#339076 in Books Jennifer Niven 2004-11-03 2004-11-03 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x 1.13 x 5.251, .81 #File Name: 078688746X464 pages paperback with picture of Ada Blackjack 431 pages | File size: 66.Mb

Jennifer Niven : Ada BlackJack: A True Story of Survival in the Arctic before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ada BlackJack: A True Story of Survival in the Arctic:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Difficult to describeBy VietVetI could not stop reading this tragic

tale. It documents exploration and harrowing adventure. But, more than that, it is a study of how simple courage, and moral conviction, interact with selfish elitism. The tremendous smallness of people insinuates itself into every potentially lofty action. It is difficult to identify and relish any of the noble moments. The reader is constantly introduced to a never ending stream of parasites who successfully deflate every possible elation. Sadly, that, not the exploration, is the saga. Frustratingly worth the read.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A friend recommended this book to me and I can't thank him ...By Jeanne YocumA friend recommended this book to me and I can't thank him enough. What an amazing true story of a woman's survival under the harshest of Arctic conditions. Very deftly written and thoroughly engaging. One thing I wasn't expecting was to have a couple of major villains in the story. I can't recommend this book highly enough. It makes a good companion piece to "In the Kingdom of Ice," which I enjoyed earlier this year.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. So much sadnessBy Rubie Irene GallegosWonderful story of courage and a mothers love. So glad this story has been told. Ad a deserved so much more for herself a d boys. So sad for all the heartache

Now in paperback, the gripping and inspiring tale of a woman's survival alone in the Arctic.In 1921, four men and one woman ventured deep into the Arctic. Two years later, only one returned.When 23-year-old Inuit Ada Blackjack signed on as a seamstress for a top-secret Arctic expedition, her goal was simple: earn money and find a husband. But her terrifying experiences--both in the wild and back in civilization--comprise one of the most amazing untold adventures of the 20th century. Based on a wealth of unpublished materials, including Ada's never-before-seen diaries, bestselling author Jennifer Niven narrates this true story of an unheralded woman who became an unlikely hero.

From Publishers WeeklyThe beauty of Niven's tale (after *The Ice Master*) reveals itself slowly, in hard-to-find bits and pieces, mirroring the piecemeal dawning of dread that blanketed the book's five protagonists one winter in 1923 on a bleak Arctic island. The explorers four young white men from the U.S. and Canada and Ada, a 23-year-old Inuit woman set out under a Canadian flag to claim a barren rock in the tundra north of the new Soviet Union for the British Empire. But with a lack of proper funding; a grandstanding, do-nothing Svengali of a leader; and an inexperienced crew, the mission was doomed from the start. Niven's hero is the slight, shy Blackjack, who, though neither as worldly wise as her companions nor as self-sufficient, learns to take care of herself and a dying member of her party after the team is trapped by ice for almost two years and the three others decide to cross the frozen ocean and make for Siberia, never to be seen again. By trapping foxes, hunting seals and dodging polar bears, Blackjack fights for her life and for the future of her ailing son, whom she left back home in Alaska, and for whose health-care expenses she agreed to take the trip. When she returns home as the only survivor, the ignoble jockeying for her attention and money by the press, her rescuer and the disreputable mission chief (who sat out the trip) melds with the clamor of city life (in Seattle and San Francisco), leaving both the reader and Blackjack near-nostalgic for the creaking ice floes and the slow rhythms of life in the northern frozen wastelands. Photos not seen by PW.Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Booklist*Starred * Niven's first book, *The Ice Master* (2000), was a thrilling chronicle of an Arctic exploration mission gone horribly awry. In many ways, *Ada Blackjack* is a follow-up, as several of the same characters and problems recur. Vilhjalmur Steffanson, the scientist whose carelessness was largely responsible for the ill-fated voyage of the *Karluk*, once again embarks on a haphazard mission. This time, his aim is to send a colonizing party to frozen Wrangel Island, intending to claim it for Canada. Four eager young men volunteer for the trip and try to hire Eskimos to hunt, sew, and cook for them, but only one signs up: 23-year-old Ada Blackjack. The group manages to survive on Wrangel for a year, but then an expected supply ship fails to reach them, and their situation quickly becomes dire. Three of the men set off for Siberia to get help, leaving an ailing colleague and Ada to fend for themselves. Using the diaries of the men and Ada, Niven vividly re-creates the frozen land, the struggles of the group, and Ada's ups and downs after her return. This exhilarating account is essential reading for adventure-story fans. Kristine HuntleyCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "The beauty of Niven's tale reveals itself slowly, in hard-to-find bits and pieces, mirroring the piecemeal dawning of dread that blanketed the book's five protagonists one winter in 1923 on a bleak Arctic island. "Publishers Weekly