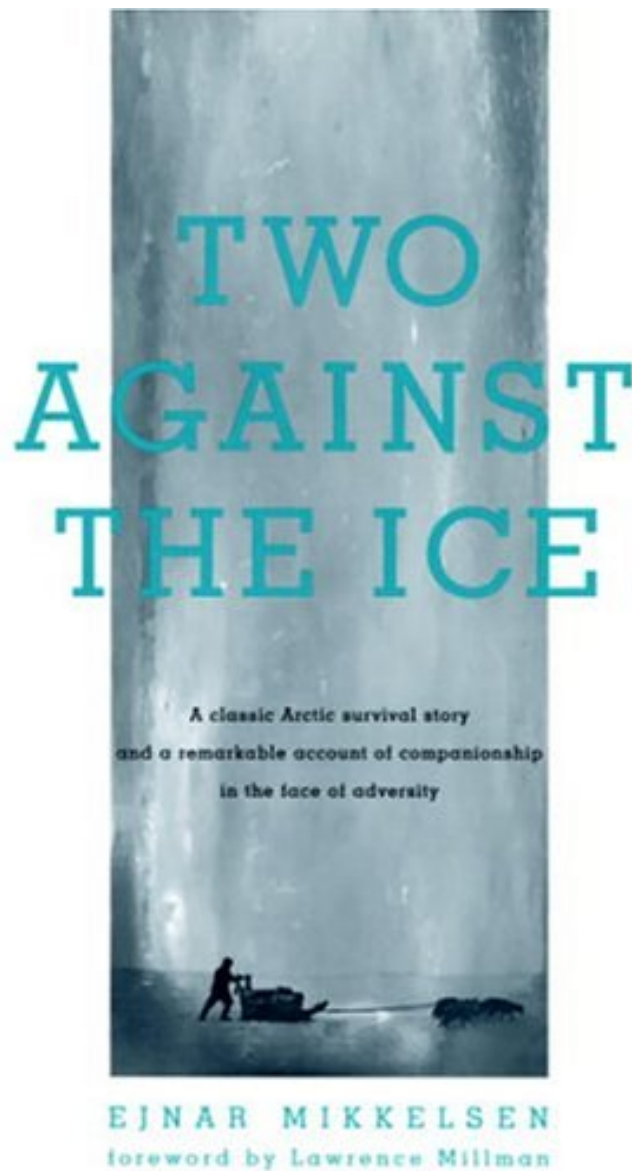


(Free) Two Against the Ice: A Classic Arctic Survival Story and a Remarkable Account of Companionship in the Face of Adversity

Two Against the Ice: A Classic Arctic Survival Story and a Remarkable Account of Companionship in the Face of Adversity

Ejnar Mikkelsen

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. not for the faint of heart, lazy or PETA ...By Valerie Luczaknot for the faint of heart, lazy or PETA fanatics. A compelling tale told first hand by author about a dog sled trip across Greenland in the early 1900's. It will give the reader a whole new respect for the tenacity of humans on a quest of adventure and discovery...the title says it all.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent story that holds you in its gripBy Jewell was skeptical that a story of two men surviving in the face of such adversity could be interesting for a whole book. I found I could hardly put it down that I didn't want it to end. It is an excellent, well written book.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. exploring without the hardshipsBy Dennis Phillipsa great read. felt i was there on the ice. nice to read about people who can get along during times of adversity.

TWO AGAINST THE ICE is a classic tale of survival by an unheralded but important figure in the history of Arctic exploration. First published in Danish in 1955, it has never before been published in North America.Ejnar Mikkelsen was a man devoted to Arctic exploration. In 1910 he decided to search for the diaries of the ill-fated Mylius-Erichsen expedition, which had set out to prove that Robert Peary's outline of the East Greenland coast was a myth, erroneous and presumably self-serving. Iver Iversen was a mechanic who joined Mikkelsen in Iceland when the expedition's boat needed repair. Several months later, Mikkelsen and Iversen embarked on a journey during which they would suffer virtually every travail in the Arctic repertoire: implacable cold, scurvy, starvation, frostbite, snow blindness, plunges into icy seawater, Sisyphean sledging conditions, Vitamin A poisoning, debilitated dogs, apocalyptic storms, gaping crevasses, and assorted mortifications of the flesh. Mikkelsen's diary was eaten by a bear. Three years of this, coupled with seemingly no hope of rescue, would drive most crazy, yet the two retained both their sanity and their humor. Indeed, what may have saved them was their refusal to become as desolate as their surroundings.A classic of Arctic survival and a remarkable account of companionship in the face of adversity. -- From The Foreword

From BooklistThis book can boast one advantage that other recently published titles on Arctic exploration cannot: it comes straight from the author's pen (or rather, the translator's), not from a researcher. Although the events described in the book took place over 90 years ago, this is the first time the account has been published in the U.S. Mikkelsen and Iver Iversen, a ship's mechanic, set off sledging across Greenland to retrieve the diaries of three other Danish explorers who perished during a previous expedition. Mikkelsen wrote that he was the type of person who had his mind on the end goal, and not so much on the immediate details-- not a good trait for an Arctic explorer when even the smallest oversight can be fatal. Amazingly, both he and Iversen survive the two-year jaunt despite frostbite, scurvy, and near-starvation. Readers will be amazed and amused by the way the two explorers keep their spirits about them and downplay the terrifying dangers as though it were all in good fun. Fascinating and fun reading. Gavin QuinnCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Mikkelsen is an artisan of cold places, and if his labors are mighty and consuming, they are also of love." -- Kirkus, December 1, 2002One of the Hundred Best Books of Twentieth-Century Exploration -- The Explorer's ClubLanguage NotesText: English (translation) Original Language: Danish