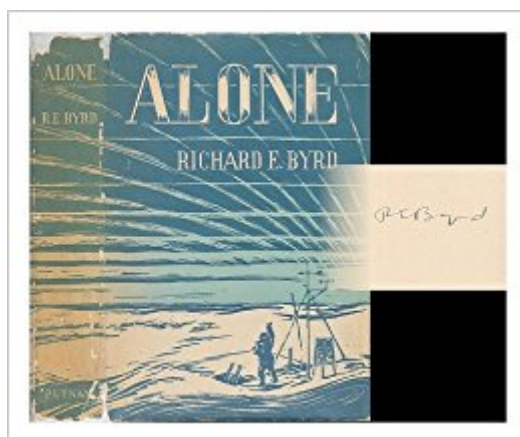


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Alone



Synopsis

This book is in very good condition. Cover is dark blue with title written in light blue. Copyright 1938 by Richard E. Byrd. Third Impression. Binding is tight and no markings in book. Check pictures.

Book Information

Hardcover

Publisher: Putnam; First Edition edition (January 1, 1938)

ASIN: B0018H4U2S

Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 5.7 x 1.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (88 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,374,189 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #452 inÂ Books > History > Arctic & Antarctica #1407 inÂ Books > History > World > Expeditions & Discoveries #7144 inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Travelers & Explorers

Customer Reviews

The stories of people who went through terrible situations can become hagiography. The worse torture one went through and survived, the tougher one is, right? I expected Admiral Richard Byrd's story of his struggle with illness and the elements in a weather outpost in Antarctica, over a hundred miles from the nearest other multicellular organism, to follow this pattern. Byrd could be forgiven for slapping himself on the back for having lived through such travails, not only because it really would take a remarkable man, but also because he had to carefully tend to his reputation, which was essential to securing funding for his exploratory expeditions. But *Alone*, written only four years after the events described and while Byrd's future career was still an issue, is a more remarkable document than I expected. Besides describing the remarkable routine of his outpost and how one could live there, where temperatures routinely dipped under negative forty degrees Fahrenheit, and besides describing the agony Byrd suffered from an insidious carbon monoxide leak in the very stove that he depended on to stay warm enough to survive, Byrd also writes what puts his reputation at risk. He describes with a surprising lack of defensiveness his mental breakdown. Over sixty awful days, Byrd changed from the intrepid explorer who wanted to spend nine months alone in the Antarctic winter just for the experience to an emaciated, pain-wracked man who could not bear to stick to his original resolution to forbid a dangerous rescue attempt. Like I said, merely telling how he endured pain could only make Byrd look more manly. Tough guys endure pain.

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