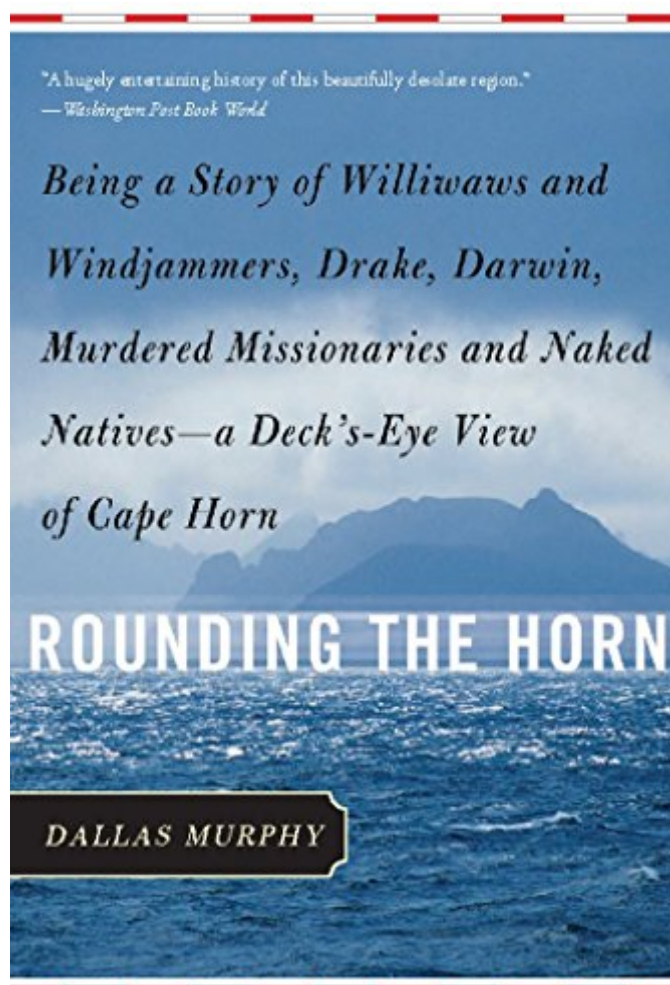


The book was found

Rounding The Horn: Being The Story Of Williwaws And Windjammers, Drake, Darwin, Murdered Missionaries And Naked Natives



Synopsis

Fifty-five degrees 59 minutes South by 67 degrees 16 minutes West: Cape Horn is a buttressed pyramid of crumbly rock situated at the very bottom of South America; is a place of forlorn and foreboding beauty that has captured the dark imaginations of explorers and writers from Francis Drake to Joseph Conrad. For centuries, the small stretch of water between Cape Horn and the Antarctic Peninsula was the only gateway between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. It is a place where the storms are bigger, the winds stronger, and the seas rougher than anywhere else on earth. Dallas Murphy has always been sea-struck. In *Rounding the Horn* he undertakes the ultimate maritime rite of passage, and brings the reader along for a thrilling, exuberant tour. Weaving together stories of his own nautical adventures with long-lost tales of those who braved the Cape before him; from Spanish missionaries to Captain Cook; and interspersing them with breathtaking descriptions of the surrounding wilderness, Murphy has crafted an immensely enjoyable read.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I picked up this book only because my children had returned from a visit to the Antarctic Peninsula and Ushuaia, Argentina. I listened to their stories and I looked at their photographs. I surfed the web, chatted with friends who had been stationed there, and read Kim Stanley Robinson's book

Antarctica (another good read). Rounding the Horn was a book I spotted in an airport bookstore that I thought my kids might be interested in. They weren't. So I read the book. Rounding the Horn is not a tale about Antarctica, although you will learn more about this continent, particularly the weather patterns associated with Cape Horn. It is a book about sailing in uncharted waters and troubled seas. It is a story of the destruction of indigenous peoples and cultures. You will be surprised at the number of famous explorers who challenged the Horn to ease access to the riches on the other side of the world. Charles Darwin himself visited, and was shaped, by his experiences in Tierra del Fuego. This book was supposed to give the reader a greater understanding of the discovery (by the western world) of this area, of the dangers associated with crossing the Horn, of the natural and human history of the area, and how it affects a visitor's soul. It is about geography, physical and human. It is a travelogue. I think every reader will pick up on these issues, more or less. To me, it seemed that Dallas Murphy was trying to do too much with this book. There wasn't enough there to understand the native Yahgan people and their destruction. The maps, intended to keep the reader oriented with all the inlets and islands and bays, started blending in to one another, looking the same.

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