

Bound By Ice

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“Bound By Ice” is a nonfiction narrative detailing the survival story of part of the crew of the U.S.S Jeanette which had embarked on a grand journey to attempt to discover the North Pole, a feat that had not yet been accomplished at the time. The Steamship would encounter many difficulties on its quest and soon these challenges would become too much. The title “Bound By Ice” reflects the situation that the crew was entrapped in for over a year. The Jeanette was trapped in the ice-covered oceans of the arctic region and as time went on, the ice would drift and move, this movement against the hull of the ship made the event of sinking essentially inevitable for the Jeanette.

From here the story tells in remarkable detail of the highly ambitious journey undertaken by the crew to attempt to find a settlement and make it out alive. Unfortunately not all make it, as this is a nonfiction story in the grand scheme of things. However, the way that the story is written makes it seem as if it can be historical fiction at times. By this I mean that it’s much more engaging throughout it when compared to other counterparts of the same genre.

Real documents recovered from the ship itself such as journal entries of the Captain and newspaper clippings from numerous different papers are smoothly integrated throughout the story and allow one to envision even more clearly what was going through the minds of those directly involved and those indirectly involved in the mission. It is clear that the authors went through much effort to transform these documents into a captivating narrative that keeps you engaged throughout, even slower parts such as the crew weathering out a long arctic winter on the ship. The reader is not bored with unnecessary details yet is still provided enough to get a clear picture of the events transpiring.

In the end, I feel that this is a book appropriate for younger (8-15) more advanced readers. Adults may feel as if it is childish due to the integration of images throughout the book and because of this they may not enjoy it as much as other demographics. As a gift, this book may not be the most suitable, as it requires a specific taste in both genre and style of writing and delivery of information.

Recommended Titles

“Hatchet”- Gary Paulsen

“Into the Abyss”- Carol Shaben

“Dead Mountain”- Donnie Eichar