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The Franklin Conspiracy: An Astonishing Solution To The Lost Arctic Expedition



Synopsis

The Franklin Conspiracy is an absorbing account of the single most enigmatic event in Canadian history. In 1845, two British Royal Navy ships, the Erebus and the Terror, commanded by Sir John Franklin, entered the Canadian Arctic in search of the Northwest Passage. Neither ship returned. A fifteen-year search uncovered evidence of unparalleled disaster, but to this day no one knows exactly how the 129 men of the Franklin Expedition met their deaths. Although the expedition did not run out of food, there is clear evidence of cannibalism. The ships carried two hundred message cylinders with them, yet failed to leave records. Stranger still, an earlier explorer, Thomas Simpson, was reputedly murdered for the "secret of the Northwest Passage." What was this "secret"? The Franklin Conspiracy is an exhaustively researched, compellingly reasoned answer to that question. The result is a shocking saga of conspiracy, cover-up, and unbelievable secrets.

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Customer Reviews

The Franklin Conspiracy is an absorbing account of the single most enigmatic event in Canadian history. In 1845, two British Royal Navy ships, the Erebus and the Terror, commanded by Sir John Franklin, entered the Canadian Arctic in search of the Northwest Passage. Neither ship returned. A fifteen-year search uncovered evidence of unparalleled disaster, but to this day no one knows exactly how the 129 men of the Franklin Expedition met their deaths. Although the expedition did not run out of food, there is clear evidence of cannibalism. The ships carried two hundred message cylinders with them, yet failed to leave records. Stranger still, an earlier explorer, Thomas Simpson, was reputedly murdered for the "secret of the Northwest Passage." What was this "secret"? The

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Jeffrey Blair Latta has contributed popular science columns to Canadian newspapers, been published in the prestigious science journal *Nature*, and written two one-act plays as well as several screen plays. Though originally majoring in Physics at Queen's University, he graduated in Film Studies.

I enjoyed this book tremendously. Do I believe the conspiracy? No, not so much, but it was enjoyable getting to it. I've read a lot of books and theories over that last ten years or so regarding The Franklin Expedition, and one thing I do believe is that The Admiralty was woefully, if not downright criminally negligent. I wish more attention had been paid to John Ross, and to the Inuit stories. Also, it would be nice to see the author, Mr. Latta update this book now that both the *Erebus* and *Terror* have been discovered. I believe most people would enjoy this book, except maybe the Franklin purists. They're just stuck in their ways. Fact is we'll never get the answers that we want about this expedition, but hopefully a few clues are being discovered from the ship's. Also, I like to think that Captain Crozier lived on for another 20 years! Heck yeah, I'd recommend this book.

I learned so much ! To think, to question. Yes, it may well be that people in the Admiralty did not want Franklin found. Maybe a wager , perhaps? A big time wager, where some higher ups had a lot to lose if Franklin came back. The part about Crozier staying with Inuit over a Winter, reminded me of the book, "Desire Provoketh"- in which Henry Hudson stayed with Inuit after the mutiny . Maybe Crozier, too, lived out his life with the Inuit.

In his book Latta combines a brief but accurate overview of the expeditions to and through the NWP, some motivated by simple exploration, others in search of the lost Franklin expedition. And from here he puts forth a theory, his own, as to what may have happened to Franklin et al. It's his theory (opinion) and nothing more. To lash out at him for having his own thoughts as to Franklin's outcome is to deny Latta his own theories. Right or wrong one thing Latta did was put into concise and chronological order almost all the trips to and through the Passage, a valuable reference.

If you have read other factual books on the Franklin expedition as well as other fictional stories, this book is a welcome entry into the Franklin lore. Conspiracy theories are popular (did we really land

on the moon in the 60s? Was there really only one shooter in Dallas?). This book is a fun read, and we really don't know what happened. Even the PBS special I saw doesn't know the real story. Maybe if global warming is true we will find the lost or buried ships in the Arctic. For now, this is an entertaining work with shades of truth.

A complete waste of time for anyone who is serious about actually learning something about the expedition.

My word people, what do you want? If your first introduction to the Franklin expedition is this book, then I would say, read some better accounts out there minus the conspiracy theory. However, if you like me, have read countless books on the Franklin expedition, then you will welcome this take on an otherwise repeated tale. If you enjoyed this, you will more than likely enjoy the fictional "Terror" by Dan Simmons. People need to be less negative and relax. I don't think it was the purpose of the author to rehash old news. The point is, we will likely never know what truly happened. It is nice to imagine there might be something out there which was and is being "covered up". If you are that distraught at the book, I question whether or not you really know what you like to read. I knew walking into this one, because of the title, that what I was about to read was the author's opinion based on loose facts that are out there about this expedition. If I wanted to read a more "factual" account, I would have re-read for the hundredth time the other works I have on the subject. I recommend this book to those who know the story quite well already and don't mind a bit of mystery combined with some imagination.

A fascinating and mysterious book that raises as many questions as it answers. The story covers more than just the expeditions of Franklin himself. It covers the tragic mistakes made that make it appear as though the Admiralty had no intention of finding him. It is a love story as well - Lady Franklin refused to give up the search for her long lost husband. However, the Admiralty first refused to help. Rather than give up, she sent her own rescue party. What the Royal Navy did to make sure it would fail. It also delves into the previous and subsequent voyages of the era that tried to find the elusive North West Passage. Giants, mysterious cairns deep into the mainland, graves hundreds of miles apart. Ship wrecks where they have no business being. The apparent death of Franklin early in the voyage - how? Lead poisoning? As with most simple answers to complex tragedies, this just doesn't come close to answering all the riddles of this desperate story. What is the Royal Navy STILL trying to hide off King Williams Island? Great Book.

This book may appeal to fans of the above-mentioned TV show, but history buffs may want to give it a pass. What we get here is a rehashing of the Franklin story, interspersed with snippets of evidence that something supernatural is going on. Unfortunately, these very numerous bits of data are never brought together in any form, leaving it to us to read between the lines to determine what may have happened out on the ice. Fortunately, it's easy to figure out what the author is getting at. Still, he should show us the strength of his conviction and come right out with his hypothesis, instead of asking the frustrated reader to speculate on what is going on. Each chapter is prefaced by a quote, seldom related to the chapter's content. The maps are poor. For a more plausible, though stomach-churning, narrative on a possible cause of the Franklin disaster, try "Ice Blink" by Scott Cookman.

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