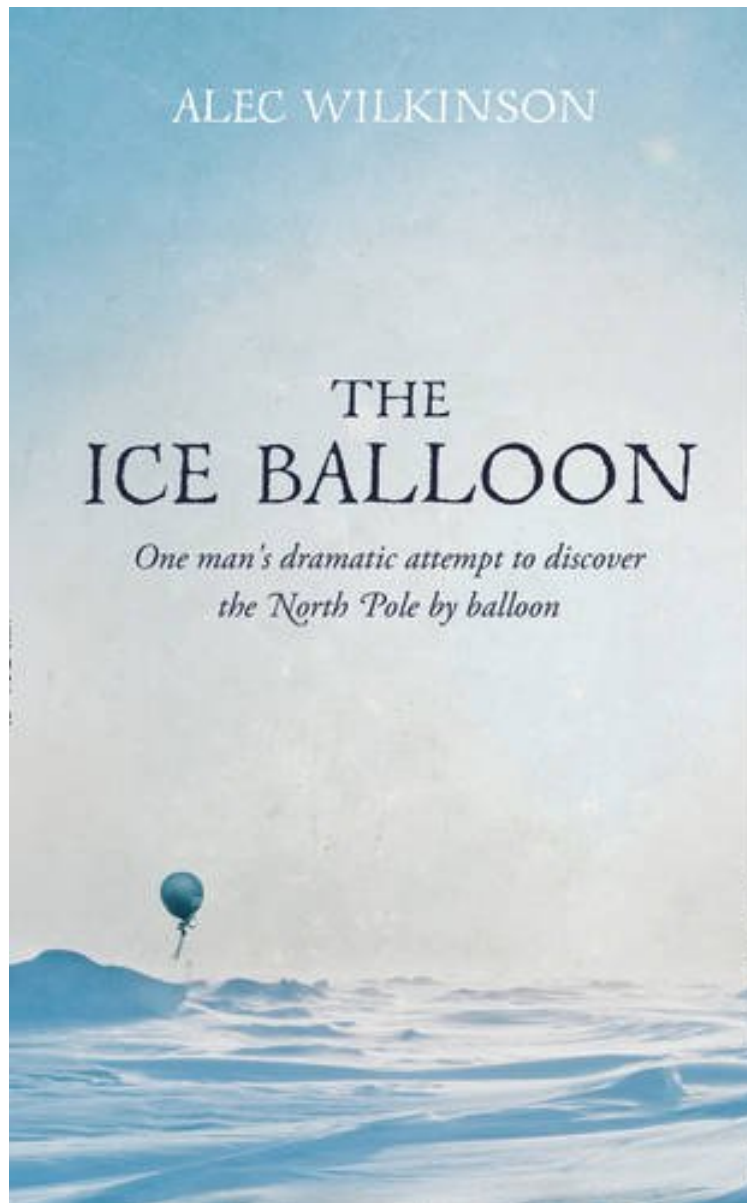


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Ice Balloon

Alec Wilkinson

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Alec Wilkinson : Ice Balloon before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ice Balloon:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not your usual storyBy Grady HolleyThis book seems disjointed at first read as it jumps from story to story, decade to decade. In the end, I thought it worked, taking Andree's story which

had little to distinguish from prior discovery tale and creating an excellent picture of land exploration on ice floes. Give the book time and you will enjoy. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. interesting, If youve never thought about it before this ...By Heatherinteresting, If youve never thought about it before this an incredible story, amazing bravery. This matched Scotts Antarctic quest for the south pole. If you want to learn about survival look no further. Endurance beyond belief.

The story of the only person to attempt to reach the North Pole by balloon, and the golden age of Polar Exploration. In August 1930, a Norwegian sloop, sailing in the Arctic Ocean, stopped at a remote island, where its crew members found a book, together with a boathook stamped 'Andree's Pol. Exp 1896'. Not far from the boat was a body leaning against a rock, with its frozen legs extended. They carefully opened the jacket the corpse was wearing. When they saw a large monogram 'A', they knew who they were looking at: S. A. Andree, the Swede who, in 1897, set off to discover the North Pole, one of the last unmapped places on earth. The Ice Balloon is the story of the heroic age of polar exploration, and the dream of conquering one of the most inhumane landscapes on earth. In this golden age of discovery, Andree's ambition was the most original and remarkable, with many comparing him to Columbus for novelty and daring. For, of the thousand or so people who had gone looking for the Pole, at least seven hundred and fifty of whom had died, only Andree used a balloon.

'Wilkinson's writing is so flawless and engaging that I'd read him on a packed subway at rush hour.' Sebastian Junger 'The Ice Balloon tells a remarkable story, while also allowing those of other explorers and their ill-fated expeditions to float gracefully through its pages' Carl Wilkinson, Financial Times 'It does take a writer of Wilkinson's diligence of research, elegance of style and perfect pitch as a storyteller to give a doomed, forgotten hero a fine memorial to his heroic adventure in the golden, amateur age of polar exploration' Iain Finlayson, The Times 'Wilkinson writes with insight and flair, artfully interleaving Andree's story with a brief history of Arctic exploration ... his prose style suits the spare polar landscape, making his occasional poetic touches even more effective ... He understands that the value of polar stories lies in our endless love of discovery and the drama of being human.' Sara Wheeler, New York Times 'Some engaging material here' Sunday Telegraph, Melanie McGrath 'If Wilkinson does not add much that is new to the story, he re-tells it with panache and compassion' Joanna Kavenna, Spectator About the Author ALEC WILKINSON began writing for The New Yorker in 1980. Before that, he was a policeman in Wellfleet, Massachusetts, and before that he was a rock-and-roll musician. He has published nine books, including *The Happiest Man in the World* and *The Protest Singer*. His honours include a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Lyndhurst Prize, and a Robert F. Kennedy Book Award.