

The Totorore Voyage: An Antarctic Adventure

Gerry Clark

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Gerry Clark : The Totorore Voyage: An Antarctic Adventure before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Totorore Voyage: An Antarctic Adventure:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. AmazingBy CustomerAmazing7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Ice, Courage, Wildlife and AdventureBy Philip WollermanThis book was loaned to me by a friend who had not been able to get into it. I read it with knowledge that the author, now well into his seventies, had been missing for several weeks near some of the New Zealand sub-antarctic islands. It has now been several months, but having read the book I will not be at all surprised if the author turns up on the coast of Chile dressed in sealskins and carrying a notebook full of his wildlife observations!This is an astonishing true story that has been written in a dispassionate, if somewhat unlitary style.Jerry Clark was a truly adventurous spirit, and combines this with his amateur ornithology to circle the southern oceans in his hand-built yacht the Totorore. Setting out from New Zealand in 1983 the then 53 year old heads across the Southern Pacific and encounters furious storms, great waves and freezing cold.Nearly two years later he returns. In between he introduces the reader to the spectacular beauty and solitude of the sub antartic, South America and the open oceans and islands between.There is a great proportion of the writing given over to his journey's purpose, that is making and recording observations of birdlife including the great wandering albtross etc. Even if you have little interest in these matters they are somewhat enlightening and give context to the adventure.There is more adventure here than many people will ever experience - the vessel is rolled on several seperate occassions, dis-masted, nursed under jury rig for months and nearly crushed by a disintegrating iceberg.More

than once the author does not expect to survive. Pages that are mostly a transcript of the ships log give an immediate feel to this. There's bathing in hot pools on desolate antarctic ice, volcanoes to climb and a camping trip on Cape Horn. The book has too few photographs but that may reflect the generally awful weather that prevails in those latitudes. Those that are there are sometimes unreal in their beauty and scale. It is a somewhat difficult but rewarding read. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Its as much about birds as sailing. By Angela M. Hey Gerry Clark provides his diary of an adventure - somewhat foolhardy - in a home made boat from Kerikeri New Zealand to Antarctica via Chile, the Falkland Islands and South Georgia. You can feel the Antarctic chills, smell the sea sickness and roll with the waves. They find a lot of Sooty Shearwater's and one gets tired of the somewhat repetitive diary entries - but I guess it captures the ennui of sailing. His engine falters, his masts freeze, he hits the bottom and so it goes on. One wonders how he would have fared with a more consistent crew - he keeps picking up bird watching experts and others. This is a tragedy about a person who liked to take risks and has some beautiful pictures to show for it.