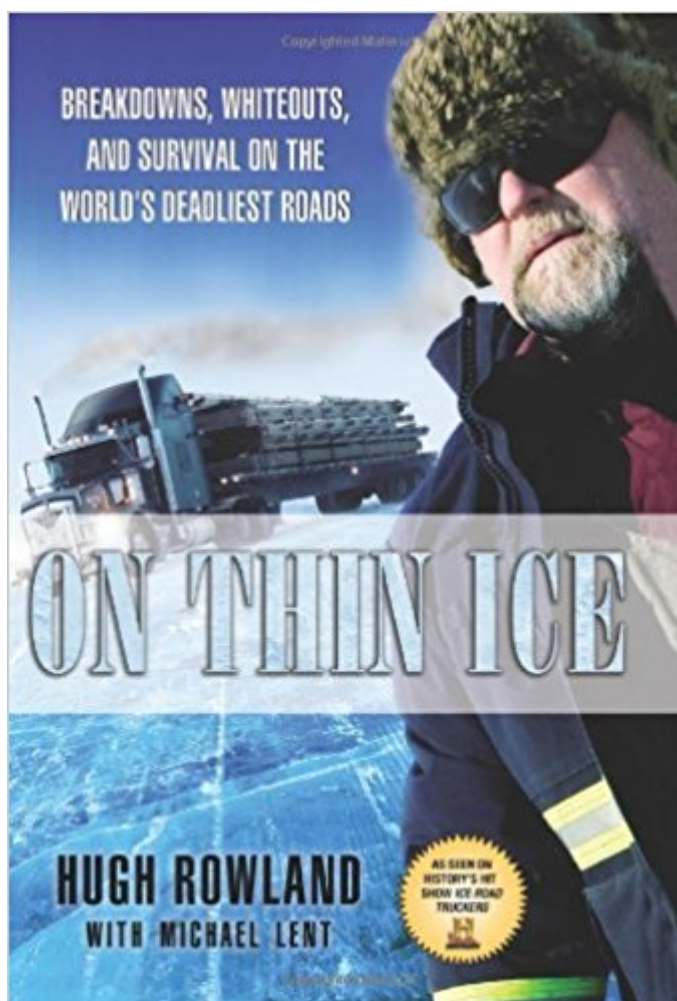


The book was found

On Thin Ice: Breakdowns, Whiteouts, And Survival On The World's Deadliest Roads



Synopsis

You've watched him battle the odds on History's Ice Road Truckers. Now read Hugh "The Polar Bear" Rowland's own storm-by-storm account of surviving and conquering the infamous ice roads of the Arctic. Join Hugh in the front seat of his truck as he shares his most chilling, adrenaline-fueled tales of the world's most dangerous job. Every year, a fleet of truckers travels beyond the northern equatorial line to the Arctic Circle, battling subzero temperatures and perilous conditions. Though treacherous, it is a region heavily endowed with natural resources. Locating this abundance of natural gas, conflict-free diamonds, and gold is relatively easy; extracting and transporting these goods is another matter entirely. The elite truckers chosen to deliver materials vital to these efforts spend two months traveling distances greater than Western Europe on naturally formed roads of ice that is only sixteen inches thick. It is one of the most dangerous jobs in the world. For more than twenty years, Hugh Rowland has survived the ice roads like none other. Each year when the temperature plummets, Rowland leaves his family in Vancouver, Canada, to drive 1,900 miles to Yellowknife, where he will begin his odyssey. Facing the threat of perilous avalanches, hundred-foot cliffs, and the ever-present danger of cracking through the ice, Hugh must push himself to the limit. The payoff is sweet, but Rowland isn't in it just for the money; he is driven by the camaraderie, the call to adventure, and the chance to battle the odds year after year. From the first snowstorm to the final thaw, *On Thin Ice* traces the history of ice road trucking, chronicles Rowland's preparation for the trek, and follows him through his perilous journey along the infamous ice roads. Take a ride with Rowland as he recounts tales of epic breakdowns and breathtaking heroism that are just a daily part of the job. In this classic battle of man and machine versus cruelest nature, only the strong will survive to see their payday, their families, and the chance to do it all over again . . . on thin ice.

WHEN HELL FREEZES OVER . . . "You've never experienced winter until you've lived through one in the far north. It starts in October and doesn't let up until mid-April. The temperatures drop to minus 70, with winds blowing 60 miles an hour. At that temperature, you throw a pot of boiling water or coffee into the air and it will instantly vaporize and turn into snow. It's cold as hell, but it's also full of riches: silver, gold, uranium, diamonds, and oil worth tens of billions of dollars. Locating these treasures in the frozen tundra is the easy part. Getting them out of the ground and bringing them from the frozen wasteland to civilization is a lot tougher. That's my job." --From *Ice Road Truckers*

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Fans of the History reality television series Ice Road Truckers will be thrilled with this inside look at the job by Rowland, a regular participant. He opens hard and fast by imagining a colleague's death after breaking through the ice and then continues with yet more dangerous moments from his decades on the job, such as when he was run off the road or chased by wolves. Rowland mixes a fair amount of Yellowknife color and history with a recounting of his own past, and fans will enjoy his personal reflections on school (dropout), prison (for a barroom brawl), and his long, successful marriage to the understanding Dianne (fan of Stephen King and Dean Koontz). Rowland deviates from the expected by discussing the impact of cameras on the job, making sure to point out that he finds their presence humorous and easy to ignore. The point, of course, is that it is all real, all unscripted, and nobody can tell him what to do, which is exactly what his millions of admirers want to hear. --Colleen Mondor

Covers all the excitement and breathtaking perilousness of the series together with the camaraderie and competitive spirit of the truckers * GOOD BOOK GUIDE * --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

After watching the series Ice Road Trucking I didnt like Hugh that much. I did not like his attitude he carries on the show. And being a truck driver myself I understand the industry, so I thought. After reading the way Hugh was raised and the work attitude that his dad taught him, I have come away with a different opinion of Hugh. When I look at the world today as a whole, I see that the young adults have not been taught to WORK. They fell the government owes them everything. But under Hugh rough character he tells stories that helped to make him a man. How he learned at a very

young age how to make money and work with his own hands. I liked reading this book. I learned many things about trucking in Northern Canada and how if I was to truck up there I would have a hard time because I don't know what to do or how to survive the bitter cold. The people are amazing up there. I would recommend it to anyone if they are looking for something different to read.

OH WOW!! This book is amazing. An absolutely wonderful informative story about the ice roads in NW Canada and the Ice Road Truckers. I have to admit I did not particularly like Polar Bear on the show, but I now have a new respect and love for him. It takes very special people to do their work in cruel climates. They are real men. Also, an entirely interesting documentary could be made on the building of the ice roads. I have to mention that my primary physician's brother, who is from India, works on the new bridge crossing the MacKenzie River. I live in Maryland on the east coast of the U.S. And I do not believe that the Ice Roads will ever be forgotten. I feel like it is a part of history for the entire world. Thank you Hugh!!!

This book is not what you might expect, i.e., endless folksy yarns of life on the road. It is actually very informative and thoughtful, and presents both a life and philosophy quite different from the norm. Hugh Rowland is an unapologetic hard worker who came from nothing, overcame many obstacles, successfully raised three daughters and stayed faithfully married to a high school sweetheart for over 30 years. He's partly the tough son of a bitch shown on IRT, but also very intelligent and cautious. He saves time and makes money by attention to details and thinking ahead. Those that don't, he observes, either fail and quit, or die on the ice road. The book is thoroughly entertaining. I read it almost at one sitting.

Ride with the Polar Bear, Hugh Rowland as he tells his story about the ice roads. Hugh tells how he grew up learning to drive trucks, cats and other equipment in Canada. He talks about the dangers of making a trail where there are no trails, breaking ground and forging through the brush to make iceroads where there are none. He talks about fights and the rough and tumble men of the diamond mines, the long hours in the sub zero temperatures, and the dangers of riding on thin ice.

Purchased for a school library grades 7-12. Strong interest for the boys who drive, or want to drive, trucks. Comfortable reading for anyone, each chapter has exciting problems, writer is an honorable family man, a piece of history which is vanishing due to the climate warming, written after the television show produced and has some notes about the difficult filming process. You feel like you

are riding along with the writer over the years he has driven the ice roads.

If you know Hugh this book just expands what you already knew. It's an interesting read I felt.

Love reading and watching the Ice Road Truckers things. Fascinating.

Amazing,great book about ice truck driving.it took me one day to read it.if you like the show on TV you gonna love this book.

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