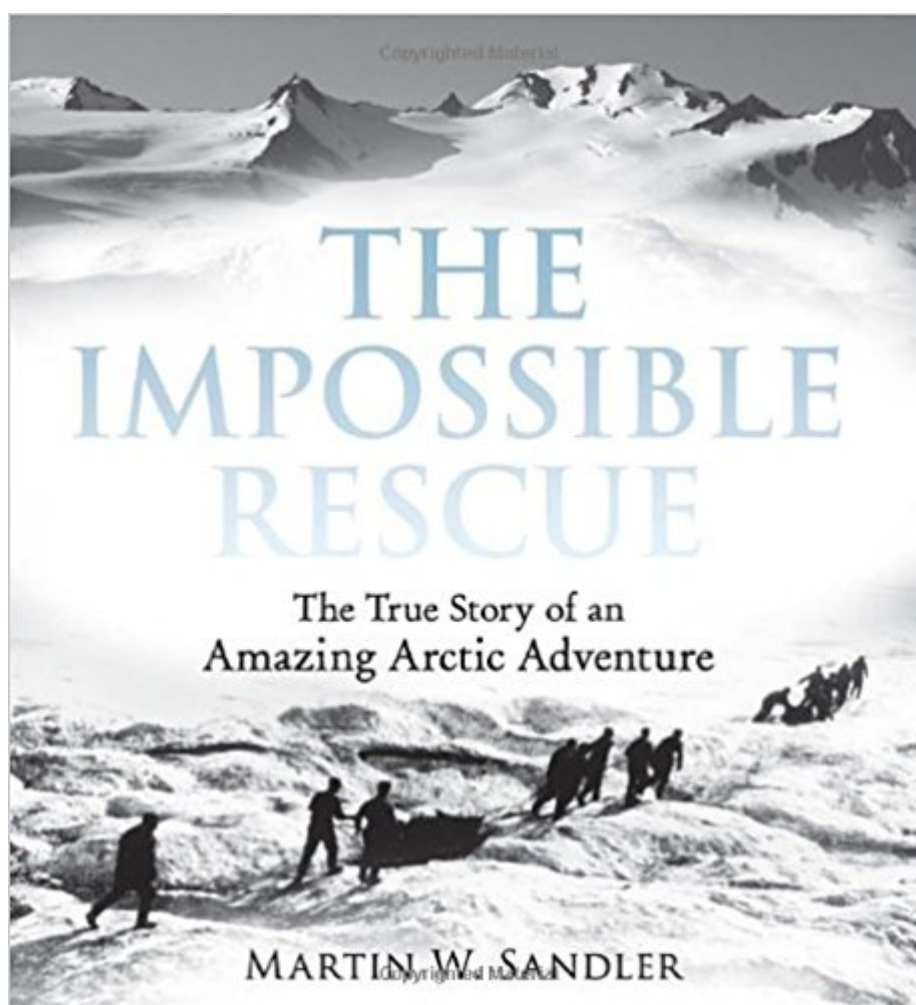


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# The Impossible Rescue: The True Story Of An Amazing Arctic Adventure



## Synopsis

The dead of an Arctic winter. Whaling ships full of men, stranded in ice. Follow three rescuers in a race against time and all odds in this heartpounding true adventure. In 1897, whaling in the Arctic waters off Alaska's coast was as dangerous as it was lucrative. And in that particular year, winter blasted early, bringing storms and ice packs that caught eight American whale ships and three hundred sailors off guard. Their ships locked in ice, with no means of escape, the whalers had limited provisions on board, and little hope of surviving until warmer temperatures arrived many months later. Here is the incredible story of three men sent by President McKinley to rescue them. The mission? A perilous trek over 1,500 miles of nearly impassable Alaskan terrain, in the bone-chilling months of winter, to secure two herds of reindeer (for food) and find a way to guide them to the whalers before they starve. With the help of photographs and journal entries by one of the rescuers, Martin W. Sandler takes us on every step of their riveting journey, facing raging blizzards, killing cold, injured sled dogs, and setbacks to test the strongest of wills.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 10 - 15 years

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 5 Up-Endurance. Fortitude. Bravery. Any of these words could easily describe the people involved in this amazing, but little-known rescue-adventure. The year was 1897 and whaling was big

business in America. Whaleship captains hunting in the Arctic Circle, pushing for more whales and the profits they meant, ended up stranded by the ice pack, affecting eight ships and their crews. One ship managed to escape the danger and alert the U.S. government to the predicament, thus setting in motion a nearly "impossible rescue." A few daring men with the experience and willingness to tackle such a mission quickly gathered their supplies and courage and headed north to bring food in the form of herded reindeer and help to some 300 sailors stuck in the Arctic winter. Using extensive primary sources in the form of journals, reports, letters, and photographs, Sandler has pieced together a stirring and evocative retelling of this historical adventure. The writing draws readers into both the suspense of reaching the struggling whalers in time as well as the dire, life-threatening conditions that the rescuers themselves faced. Archival black-and-white photographs taken during the journey help pull the whole story together and prove an excellent visual accompaniment to the unfolding drama. An epilogue answers many of the "what happened after..." questions, and extensive source notes round out the back matter. For readers who prefer their drama to be true, suggest this title along with Jennifer Armstrong's *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World* (Crown, 1998), Jon Krakauer's *Into Thin Air* (Villard, 1997), and Dolores Johnson's *Onward: a Photobiography of African-American Polar Explorer Matthew Henson* (National Geographic, 2005).-Jody Kopple, Shady Hill School, Cambridge, MA (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Outstanding nonfiction writing that makes history come alive.âKirkus Reviews (starred review)A terrific true tale, well told.âBooklist (starred review)Using extensive primary sources in the form of journals, reports, letters, and photographs, Sandler has pieced together a stirring and evocative retelling of this historical adventure. The writing draws readers into both the suspense of reaching the struggling whalers in time as well as the dire, life-threatening conditions that the rescuers themselves faced.âSchool Library Journal (starred review)Crisply designed with plentiful white space, this book shares a thrilling and inspirational story of determination, perseverance, and bravery.âPublishers Weekly (starred review)

This true historical mission displays determination, ingenuity and sense of duty to a cause larger than oneself that seems to be almost nonexistent in today's society. A truly inspirational tale that illustrates there is no I in team. In today's fractured and selfish society this novel makes one nostalgic for the days when we had a greater sense of us. This tale shows how far humanity has

come in achievements but how much we seem to have lost our sense of humanity and willingness to sacrifice for a larger cause.

I'm rating *The Impossible Rescue* 5 stars because this account of the harrowing rescue of sailors whose ships had gotten caught in the ice off Alaska's coast was so well written. Since winter had come early without warning the sailors were left with limited provisions in subzero temperatures in increasingly worsening conditions. President McKinley ordered three men to carry out the overland rescue in the unforgiving Alaskan winter. This is a fascinating story with wonderful photos and an epilogue that tells you what happened to the people after the rescue.

Wonderful book, well written, and just the right length. Sandler also includes maps through the journey which helps not to flip back to the first map again and again. He also tells of what happened to those men after their great rescue of the whalers.

Wow, It's astonishing to see what these men went through. First off, this book covers many things such as the arctic, survival, determination, and teamwork, If these men had just given up or didn't work together, than this story would have had a completely different ending. Besides telling the story of the rescue of which was the first of this type of scale, a large amount of photos are included which provide some more insight of what it was like for the rescue part. Besides the photos, there are also some quotes from journals the survivors kept and they also provide insight on what it must have been like. These men had to go through a lot like hunger, the cold, losing faith and much more. Despite the odds, these men stayed strong, and their story of survival is a must read.

So true that real life is better than fiction. The author captures the urgency of the rescue and the characters to tell this amazing story of survival and heroes.

An amazing story of human endurance. It was just incredible what these men were willing to do to rescue the stranded men from the whale ship. It was also interesting to learn about the natives of the region as well as the people who came from the outside to make permanent homes there.

I bought this book for my son, who absolutely loved it and recommended I read it too. It's an incredible story of survival and human spirit. The descriptive nature of Mr. Sandler's writing really makes you feel how desperate, cold, isolated and nearly hopeless the situation must have been.

For kids today, it's a real chance to see how much the human spirit can muster when needed, especially in light of the lack of technological advances we have today. Well-done Mr. Sandler!

This is one of my favorite books. It shows the endurance and perseverance of the American people. Who would have tried to rescue these people by putting their very lives at risk? Everything had to be just right, i.e. the weather, the food supply, as well as the cooperation of others met along the route. Everyone had to be willing to risk all and do their part for these people to be rescued. It is an easy read for not only adults, but also for children from about 12 years old and up..

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