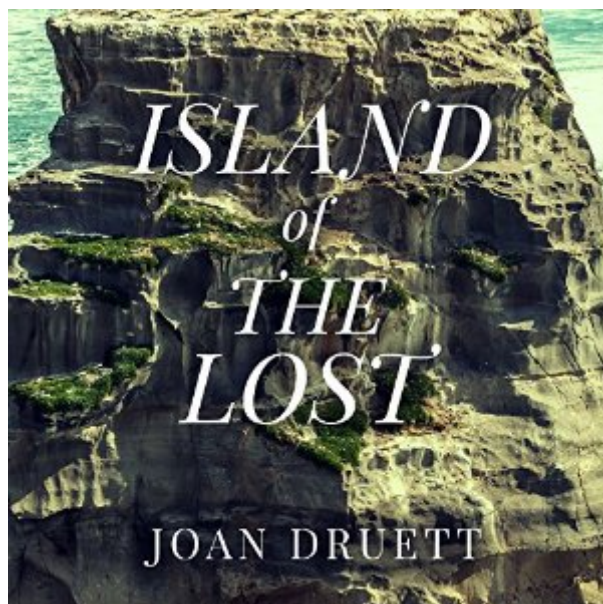


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Island Of The Lost: Shipwrecked At The Edge Of The World



Synopsis

Auckland Island is a godforsaken place in the middle of the Southern Ocean, 285 miles south of New Zealand. With year-round freezing rain and howling winds, it is one of the most forbidding places in the world. To be shipwrecked there means almost certain death. In 1864, Captain Thomas Musgrave and his crew of four aboard the schooner Grafton wreck on the southern end of the island. Utterly alone in a dense coastal forest, plagued by stinging blowflies and relentless rain, Captain Musgrave inspires his men to take action. With barely more than their bare hands, they build a cabin and, remarkably, a forge where they manufacture their tools. Incredibly, at the same time on the opposite end of the island, the Invercauld wrecks during a horrible storm. Nineteen men stagger ashore. Unlike Captain Musgrave, the captain of the Invercauld falls apart given the same dismal circumstances. His men fight and split up; some die of starvation, others turn to cannibalism. Only three survive. Musgrave and all of his men not only endure for nearly two years, but they also plan their own astonishing escape, setting off on one of the most courageous sea voyages in history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In the latter half of the nineteenth century, two ships, the Grafton and the Invercauld, set sail for different destinations within six months of each other. Both ended up being shipwrecked on the rocky, treacherous coast of Auckland Island, a remote and desolate place in the Southern Ocean, some two hundred and eighty-five miles south of New Zealand. As Auckland Island is located in the

sub-Antarctic region, it provides an alien and hostile environment, one that is plagued by freezing rain and howling gales force winds. In January of 1884, the Grafton, a schooner captained by Thomas Musgrave and his crew of four, was the first of the two ships to meet its fate. Beset by howling winds and driving rain, the Grafton was swept onto the reefs that stand like sentinels around Auckland Island, wrecking the ship. Retrieving what provisions they could, the five men from the Grafton survived the debacle and were able to make it to shore, finding themselves marooned on the southern end of Auckland island. There, forced into the jaws of hell, they were faced with ordeal of survival, and to that end the five banded together like brothers for the common good. They were on that god-forsaken island for nearly two years when a desperate and daring escape by three of the five lead to the rescue of the remaining two. In May of 1884, unbeknownst to these stalwart five, the Invercauld, a freighter, captained by George Dalgarno, found itself caught in a hurricane on the northern end of Auckland Island. The torrential rain and driving winds forced the ship onto the island's forbidding rocky reefs, which proceeded to decimate the ship. Nineteen men, including the Captain survived, but unlike the crew of the Grafton, the survivors did not become a band of brothers.

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