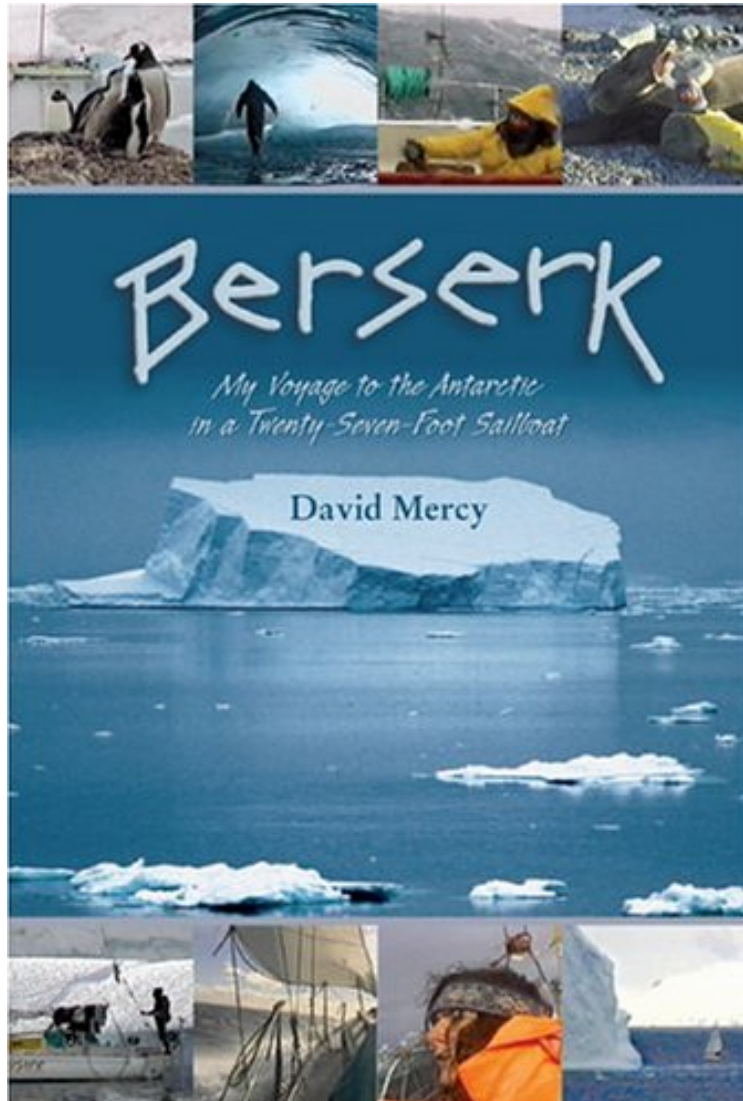


(Free pdf) Berserk: My Voyage to the Antarctic in a Twenty-Seven-Foot Sailboat

Berserk: My Voyage to the Antarctic in a Twenty-Seven-Foot Sailboat

David Mercy

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David Mercy : Berserk: My Voyage to the Antarctic in a Twenty-Seven-Foot Sailboat before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Berserk: My Voyage to the Antarctic in a Twenty-Seven-Foot Sailboat:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Berserk lives up to its name By eric e drews The name fitted the Captain to a T. Here is a young man, aged 19 when he started his trip to Antarctica, with more balls than brains.

Luckily he had some sailing experience or the story would have been written by his next of kin and not the surviving crew member. The crew member, David, may have been a bit berserk himself, say 20%, the remaining 80% being sheer stupidity. Here is a guy that thinks he can take off to Antarctica in a 27 foot sailboat, expected to stand duty in the seas most horrific zone with no sailing experience what so ever. He merrily jumps aboard eager as a school boy but without clothes for the trip, no foul weather gear or survival gear or training. A third man rounds out the crew, Manuel, a chain smoking mooch from Argentina. He would prove to be as treacherous as the stormy seas. He is the kind of man, even at 30, that expects his Mommy to come wipe his ass for him. And when she doesn't come, pouts and sucks his thumb while curled in the fetal position, withdrawn from the world around him. Worthless. The only thing that saved their sorry asses was the rugged Albin Vega, a super strong 27 foot sailboat built in Sweden. Even still, it's known weaknesses, not addressed by the Captain, almost cost them their lives. The book reads like the three stooges meet the crew from Jackass. It is a good read well worth having to deal with the frustration of reliving the story along with the dolts on board. Sailing through the Roaring Forties, Furious Fifties and the Drakes makes for a scary good time. Luckily, God watches over the fools of this world, me included. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not-so Innocents Abroad By D. LaFontaine I've known David for more than 20 years, and his wanderlust has always taken him far from the beaten path. Whether it be walking across Africa, from Kenya to Nigeria, to spending three months in Australia, memorably driving a truck into a raging river by accident (it was night, he was entrusted to drive on unfamiliar roads), David has always had a bit of a kamikaze streak in him. I've traveled a bit in the U.S. with him, and several times, we have found ourselves suddenly aware that we had stumbled into life-threatening situations. Always, David was able to extricate himself, emerging unharmed, and with an unbridled enthusiasm for his next adventure. Then he decided to go to Antarctica, to complete his travels to every continent on Earth. The fact that he survived, and wrote this book, is either a testament to the enduring human spirit ... or evidence of some sort of divine (infernal?) intervention on his behalf. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Whoa, this was awesome! By Gregory C. Jennings Awesome book and awesome story of courage, the desire for adventure while also thinking of the "normal life" back home, how friendship can be found (or never really found (like with Manuel) and also complete craziness ("but not stupidity"). David Mercy writes much like the reader is there. The closest comparison I have read to this book would be "Into Thin Air". The major difference of course is Jon Krakauer had some experience climbing mountains, and David Mercy had no sailing experience and that in itself is incredible. David went from shore to manning the wheel in a force-12 storm in the Drake Passage. I wonder how many people can claim their first experience sailing is crossing the Drake Passage. When I finished this book I thought of how everything that happened to the crew seemed to time itself perfectly to the final end. I especially have to respect David Mercy for not abandoning Jarle when he could have like Manuel did. Had he done so there would likely never have been this incredible story and maybe no good ending that the world would know of. When David had the opportunity to abandon Jarle and stay in the warmth and safety of the cruise ship I thought of the film "The Red Tent"-when Umberto Nobile left on a rescue plane ahead of all the other survivors during the failed 1928 airship expedition to the North Pole and how he had to live with his decision in later years. My only complaint was there were no photographs (aside from the cover sleeve). They have a site on the internet (the Wild Vikings), but it doesn't tell much of the story, but it appears they have been on another expedition recently. I can't stop reading about small sailboats and thinking of the places I could go since I finished this book.

An unforgettable sailing adventure to the world's most dangerous continent.

"This is a true story that will leave the reader exhausted. It is a very well written book that explores the possibilities that no one would ever expect to happen, and follows as they become real."--Latitudes Attitudes