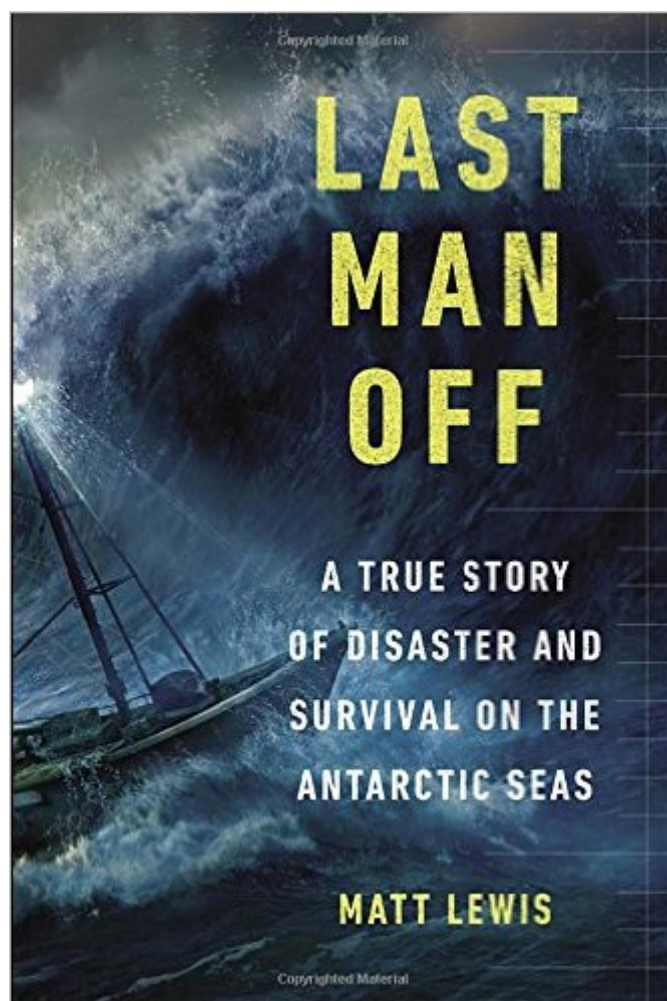


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Last Man Off: A True Story Of Disaster And Survival On The Antarctic Seas



Synopsis

• "A sinister version of The Perfect Storm . . . Thrilling." • "Sunday Times (UK) For readers of The Perfect Storm, Between a Rock and a Hard Place, and Into the Wild There's nothing that armchair adventure lovers relish more than a gripping true story of disaster and heroism, and Last Man Off delivers all that against a breathtaking backdrop of icebergs and killer whales. On June 6, 1998, twenty-three-year-old Matt Lewis had just started his dream job as a scientific observer aboard a deep-sea fishing boat in the waters off Antarctica. As the crew haul in the line for the day, a storm begins to brew. When the captain vanishes and they are forced to abandon ship, Lewis leads the escape onto three life rafts, where the battle for survival begins.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars • See all reviews (101 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #54,117 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in Books > Travel > Polar Regions > Antarctica #49 in Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Natural Disasters #234 in Books > Travel > Travel Writing

Customer Reviews

Highly recommended, LAST MAN OFF: A True Story of Disaster and Survival on the Antarctic Seas, is an up-close look at the fishing industry, its workers, and the world's insatiable appetite for fish on the table. The book is well written, reads quickly, and has the tone and feel of the best of fiction thrillers. At times it is difficult to remember that the book is a memoir; the story, real. In the late 1990s, Matt Lewis, fresh out of college, gets a job as an Observer on a deep-sea fishing vessel out of South Africa. Lewis, from Scotland, has never worked at sea, and the position aboard the "Sudur Havid" is his first as a scientist aboard ship. His duties include keeping an eye on compliance with international fishing regulations, measuring and counting catch, and watching for endangered species (birds, for example) that might get caught up in the nets. From the start, Lewis is thrown into a rough and tumble world very different from the sheltered university experience. His crew mates

are of various ages, races, and nationalities, but with few exceptions, most are familiar with the Southern Ocean - the mean, cold, and relentless sea around the fringes of Antarctica. With very few creature comforts; an unheated galley in which crew eat basic meals; small, crowded and shared cabins; few shower facilities; language barriers, and freezing cold work on the decks, the men of the "Sudur Havid" go to sea. Lewis is a keen observer, not only of all scientific, but also of mankind. He is curious about and fascinated by his fellow shipmates and provides short but memorable profiles of the men on board. His discomfort on the vessel comes out in his writing: he is young, from the United Kingdom, college educated, and naive about life at sea.

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