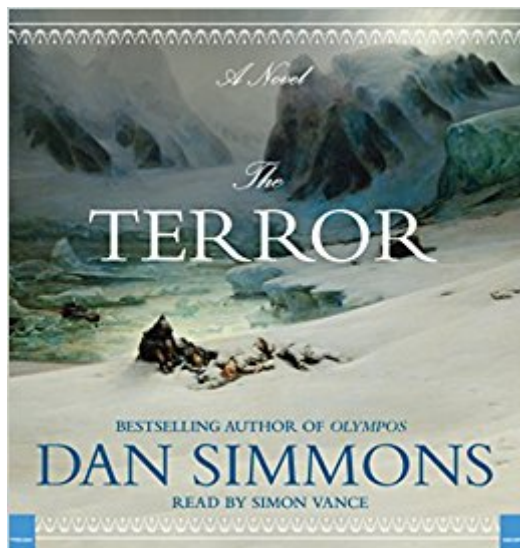


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The Terror: A Novel



Synopsis

The men on board HMS Terror have every expectation of finding the Northwest Passage. When the expedition's leader, Sir John Franklin, meets a terrible death, Captain Francis Crozier takes command and leads his surviving crewmen on a last, desperate attempt to flee south across the ice. But as another winter approaches, as scurvy and starvation grow more terrible, and as the Terror on the ice stalks them southward, Crozier and his men begin to fear there is no escape. A haunting, gripping story based on actual historical events, *The Terror* will chill you to your core.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Simmons's lumbering seafaring adventure-cum-ghost story is solidly manned by Vance, who invests his reading with a vinegary tang perfectly suitable for the nautical setting. Vance derives special pleasure from the opportunity to dive into the book's mixture of King's English, Cockney, Scottish and Irish accents, delivering each with brio and panache. Working with characters who express themselves lustily, Vance avails himself of the opportunity to chew the scenery and makes the most of it. Simmons's novel mingles genres, alternating between horror and maritime action, and Vance uses tone and pitch to indicate the story's joints and digressions. Vance enjoys declaiming Simmons's characters' speeches in booming voices, as would be appropriate for the book's setting, but those listeners residing in apartments, or with babies, would be advised to keep the sound turned firmly down to avoid any potential noise complaints. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

The prolific and versatile Simmons turns to historical fiction in this fine narrative of the lost Franklin expedition of the 1840s, in which nearly 200 men sailed in search of the Northwest Passage aboard two converted naval vessels, Erebus and Terror. They seemingly sailed off the face of the earth, until remains of the longest survivors among them were discovered many years later. Simmons makes the Terror's Captain Crozier his protagonist, and through his eyes we see history infused with sf, fantasy, and horror elements: sf because the expedition went farther into the then unknown than did the Apollo astronauts; fantasy because the hardships of the grippingly described arctic environment played havoc with their minds; and horror because the men perished in ones and twos, in dozens and scores, from boat accidents, falls, scurvy, hypothermia, exposure, starvation, and parasitic infections. Crozier survives by taking refuge among the Inuit and covering the expedition's nightmarish trail by burning his ship and vanishing from civilization, by which time readers may be as emotionally drained as he. Outstanding. Roland Green Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Although the book can bog down, it is ultimately a satisfying tale. There is plenty of terror/spookiness and a lot of gore, so be forewarned. The amount of historical research that went into it is amazing. The info about the Inuit is especially great. I spent a lot of post read time looking at the locations and the actual historical people. SPOILER ALERT. There are actually three Northwest Passages. But until recently, unpredictable ice has made their crossing problematical. The shrinking ice cover has made the routes somewhat more navigable. Just-in-time regular scheduled shipping is still impractical, however.

I won't spend much time here, but to say that I bought this book a few years ago and was captivated by the content as far as the subject matter goes. I had never heard of the Franklin Expedition until I read this book. The events that unfold and the manner they unfold are very unsettling in that when things happen, they seem to be tied into with what's happened before and what will happen next. Every page is worthwhile to read. It's an amazing story that perhaps bends the truth of reality, but offers an explanation into the known outcome of the historical events. No one came back from the expedition. They're all still there in the frozen realms. But in reading this novel, it's an invitation to be a part of the expedition and witness things that are very disturbing. I've read the novel at least 5 times and learn more with each reading.

Right from the start I was hooked. I even read a non fiction account of the Franklin Expedition in tandem with the novel, as well as watching screw documentaries. The grim outcome of the men from history is humanized and the hint of terror on the ice works well. I like the idea of Crozier surviving and this was well done.

I really enjoyed this book! A history of Arctic exploration with a twist of fiction. Wonderfully researched, absolutely terrifying. An amazing tale of strength, fortitude and driving curiosity no longer readily evident in our world today. Dan Simmons is rapidly becoming one of my favorite authors.

A good book, overall. Could have been somewhat abridged. Too much non essential detail, which made it something of a chore to plow through at times. But, all in all...a worthwhile read.

This is a great story that is loosely based on a true arctic expedition from the 1850's. It's very well written and Simmons does a great job of making the environment terrifying even without a supernatural element. The constant growling and screaming of the ice as giant slabs slide over and against one another like the tectonic plates, or the seracs that seem to grow out of the ice like the giant teeth of some angry god trying to crush the ships really amp up the tension. Not to mention the constant darkness and the negative seventy degree temperature that could kill a man in minutes. Add a massive creature that is hunting the men with a intelligence that seems to rival their own, and you have one hell of a stressful situation these poor guys are trying to survive in. The only reason I didn't give it 5 stars is it is just too long. Overall a good two hundred pages could be trimmed and the ending spends at least twenty pages of just spinning its wheels.

This is an incredibly well-researched and well-written book. Simmons has captured the details of life on an ice-trapped arctic expedition ship in the nineteenth century with breathtaking clarity, while adding a horror element as well. You really feel as if you are there. Unfortunately, "there" is not a place you necessarily want to be. The read begins to feel as stark and unrelentingly horrible as the conditions Simmons describes so painstakingly. Day after day, month after month, of absurd cold and totally unforgiving and hostile circumstances, with no real glimmer of hope or warmth or redemption to offset it, starts to wear on the reader. And though I love horror, the horror element almost feels like "piling on" - the men's situation is quite bad enough without it. It doesn't help that the book is nearly a thousand pages. It seems as if Simmons was influenced by some of the

nineteenth century writers he must have read for his research. Herman Melville was known to take a 50-page detour to talk about whales, but modern audiences have lost a bit of patience with this kind of long-windedness. I occasionally found myself skimming sections, which is something I never do when reading a novel. All that said, though, I still kept reading and gave it four stars. Simmons is THAT good a writer.

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