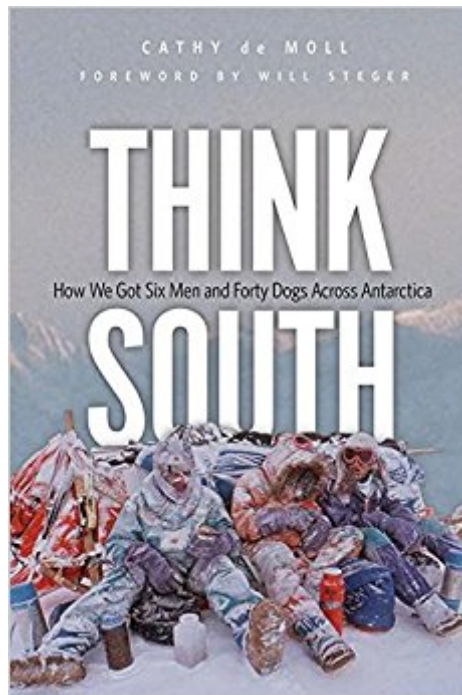




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Think South: How We Got Six Men And Forty Dogs Across Antarctica



Synopsis

What does it take to move forty dogs, three sleds, twenty tons of food and gear, and six men from all over the world across nearly four thousand of the coldest miles on earth? Cathy de Moll, the executive director of the 1990 International Trans-Antarctica Expedition, introduces the wild cast of characters who made it happen, on the ice and off: leaders Will Steger and Jean-Louis Etienne, who first met accidentally, on the way to the North Pole; Valery Skatchkov, the Soviet bureaucrat who supplied a "hot" Russian airplane; Yasue Okimoto, who couldn't bear to leave headquarters in Minnesota while her boyfriend was on the ice; Qin Dahe, the Chinese member of the team, who didn't know how to ski; the millions of children who followed the expedition in schools around the world, learning about the fragility and ferocity of the seventh continent; and many others. These stories of near misses and magical coincidences are as suspenseful and compelling as the expedition's headlines--and they have never been told. But they also reflect the greatest lesson of the project: the international cooperation that was needed for the expedition's success is every bit as essential for the preservation of Antarctica today.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This book is about the International Trans-Antarctica Expedition. But it's not about the frostbite. Not about the 75-knot winds that whipped tents relentlessly. Not about endless crevasse crossings. Not about keeping dozens of exhausted sled dogs alive while battling Mother Nature's worst wiles. It's about all the invisible stuff a team of people need to do behind the scenes to ensure the success of an incredibly complicated venture." - Expedition News

A zany, spirited tell-all of what it took to pull

off one of the most audacious expeditions in modern history. De Moll sheds light on a side of 20th-century expeditions rarely told: the budgetary and logistical puzzles, cross-continental love affairs, high-rolling deals, and dozens of behind-the-scenes heroes from Moscow to Beijing who made this journey possible. And she does it with humor, wit, and grace... a great read: as much a nostalgic recounting of a bygone era as it is an edge-of-your-seat adventure tale." - Outside Magazine

"Think South" may not be the typical book of polar exploration, but it's a stirring read that gives readers appreciation for the diplomacy, fundraising and logistics behind a major expedition.... a memoir with warmth and heart." - Minneapolis StarTribune

"If the logistics behind an expedition across Antarctica doesn't sound as riveting as the expedition itself, think again. International intrigue, backroom deals, late-night memos, and the possibility of unwittingly stranding friends in Antarctica make this a compelling read for armchair travelers and those interested in Antarctica and international relations. Those who recall the expedition or have read the firsthand accounts, will find this entry especially fascinating."-- Library Journal

"...Reads like a nail-biting and sometimes-humorous novel." De Moll structures "Think South" around individuals, giving the book a warmth and immediacy with wonderful descriptions of these players from various cultures." - St. Paul Pioneer Press

Cathy de Moll, who has been a teacher, communications executive, writer, and entrepreneur, was the executive director of the International Trans-Antarctica Expedition. Will Steger led the first confirmed dogsled expedition to the North Pole, the first and only traverse of Antarctica by dogsled, and other remarkable expeditions.

I was very interested in The Trans Antarctic Expedition, and lucky enough to meet Will Steger when he was speaking in Houston, so when I saw this book was available, I ordered it. It's a great narrative about the difficulties Cathy encountered in trying to keep a handle on the logistical side of the expedition. Her job, seemed to me to be a lot like one that a film producer's assistant might have when working on location in a foreign country without the complicating vagaries of the Antarctic weather. Her portraits of the various people she worked with are well-drawn and captivating. She obviously loved the Soviet hustler Victor, who helped get the Russians on board. When you read her tales about him, you will too. An engaging, realistic, interesting account of the behind-the-scenes issues in getting this motley crew from one end of the continent to the other successfully.

A great story wonderfully written, populated by compelling and fascinating characters. I initially questioned the author's choice to organize the book by the characters, in most cases a chapter per person, rather than chronologically. I thought it might be disorienting. No. You get the outline of the story early on, and it just gets deeper and more nuanced and familiar as it goes on, each chapter overlaying the one before, filling it in with color, texture and detail.

A well written and thoroughly enjoyable book. This is a tale of adventure on the ice, but the real story is what happens in the background. The delightful characters, the logistical nightmares, governmental intrigue, and humorous anecdotes make this more than a telling of an incredible expedition, but a study of the audaciousness that is needed to pull something like this off. Written with precision and wit, a delightful read.

The book reports on the perfect storm of people, politics and personalities which lead to the success of the Antarctica crossing. With Perestroika in Russia, the Gore-Tex family's passion, Will Steger and the team's dedication and training, all that was needed was a conductor for the music to play. And it did. Good story. Excellent adventure.

A good combination of scientific information and human interest. Cathy de Moll's idea to organize the chapters so that each one featured a different person involved in the expedition was excellent. Achieving international cooperation was a major goal and achievement of the expedition team.

My wife read it and got author to sign it.

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