



# Hell on Ice: The Saga of the Jeannette

*Edward Ellsberg*

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# Hell on Ice: The Saga of the Jeannette

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**Hell on Ice: The Saga of the Jeannette** Edward Ellsberg

**The thrilling adventure of one crew's harrowing journey back from the earth's most foreboding frozen hell**

In the 1870s, newspaperman James Gordon Bennett of the *New York Herald* drummed up excitement and publicity for his paper through highly publicized missions of exploration. In 1879, Bennett's idea for a voyage was his most audacious to date: the North Pole. To do this, he hired a team of naval veterans in addition to a smattering of civilians with specialized knowledge in meteorology, whaling, and naturalism. The men on board the *Jeannette* set off in September of 1879. This would be the last time anyone saw them for two years.

The product of devoted research into personal histories, memoirs, and classified congressional investigation records, *Hell on Ice* is a remarkable document: a novelization of history, turning the horrible ordeal of the brave men of the *Jeannette* into a riveting narrative. Written with a weathered seaman's familiarity, the story brilliantly captures a most perilous voyage from the perspective of the ship's chief engineer. The men of the *Jeannette* endure months trapped in an Arctic ice pack, and then begin a desperate trek for home.

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