



Arctic Experiences: Containing Capt. George E. Tyson's Wonderful Drift on the Ice-floe, a History of the Polaris Expedition, the Cruise of the Tigress, and Rescue of the Polaris Survivors

Euphemia Vale Blake

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In June of 1871, navigator George E. Tyson and the Polaris sailed forth from New York to pursue an American dream—to be the first expedition to explore the icy waters of the North Pole. Led by Captain Hall, veteran Arctic explorer, and funded with a \$50,000 grant from the U.S. Congress, it seemed the Polaris would not fail. But the voyage was doomed from the start: impassable ice-floes, a crew that couldn't get along, and eventually the poisoning and untimely death of Captain Hall. Finally, as winter approached, Tyson and half the crew found themselves stranded on the Arctic ice, incapable of reconnecting with their ship. They would not be rescued for six months. Through Tyson's detailed notes and a journal written upon the ice, *Journey to the Arctic* tells the harrowing tale of survival, slow starvation, and of men turned wild in frigid climes.

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