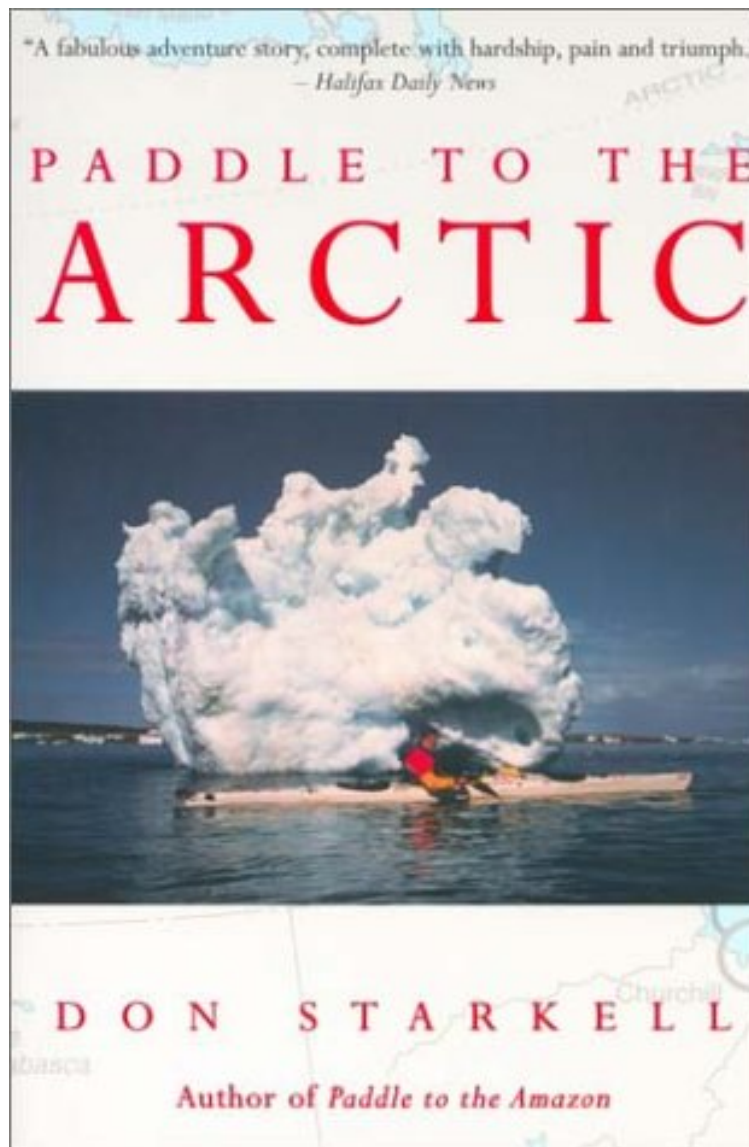


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Paddle to the Arctic: The Incredible Story of a Kayak Quest Across the Roof of the World

Don Starkell

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Don Starkell : Paddle to the Arctic: The Incredible Story of a Kayak Quest Across the Roof of the World before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Paddle to the Arctic: The Incredible Story of a Kayak Quest Across the Roof of the World:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A tough trip in anyone's book, but especially in Don Starkell's. By Nigel Another amazing trip from Don Starkell, this story is truly amazing, I found myself talking out loud as I read through some of the episodes detailed in the book. I would have loved it if Vicki had been given a chance to write a chapter or two, giving her perspective on things, I think she sounds like one tough lady. I am not sure if I would like Don Starkell if I met him, but personality issues aside you have to take your hat off to the man he is one driven adventurer. Both his books rank in my top ten of kayak adventure books.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great adventure story. By mark Having read his previous book, "Paddle to the Arctic", I was ready for more Don Starkell adventures. I have to admit that I had to grit my teeth through the first few chapters of this one. He blunders into the journey very unprepared which would normally be forgivable but he just seems to completely mentally unravel. After that the book smoothes out and becomes interesting. Like previous reviewers it's hard for me to stomach his almost suicidal lack of preparation but that's part of what makes it such an adventure. This is not a how-to book on arctic expeditions. It's not a how-not-to book either. It's an interesting story by a very driven human being. I'd recommend reading "Paddle to the Arctic" then reading this book. If you're anal about properly preparing for expeditions, etc. then you most likely won't enjoy it.

15 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Incompetence and egomania in the Arctic. By Gerald A. Huntley When I first read this book, some of the adventures seemed so implausibly stupid that I suspected that the story was a hoax. Rest assured, the events described - however improbable - really did take place. The book is a must read for anyone contemplating solo adventures in the Arctic, if for no other reason than to dissuade them. However, Starkell is hardly a suitable role model; those who are familiar with his adventures have described him as "a danger to himself and everybody around him". Nor can much be said for his character; he almost killed his partner by forcing her on when she was seriously ill, yet in his account of the episode, he talks of nothing but how frustrating it was to be behind schedule. For a truly heroic account of this and other adventures, I highly recommend the account of the late Victoria Jason, who accompanied him on his first two trips. Her book, *Kabloona in the Yellow Kayak: One Woman's Journey through the North West Passage*, is an inspiring account of courage and generosity made all the more remarkable by the fact that all the while she was battling what turned out to be a terminal illness. Despite all obstacles, she nonetheless succeeded where Starkell failed -- and kept all her fingers and toes to boot.

After his astounding 12,000-mile canoe trip from Winnipeg down to the Amazon (recounted in his bestseller *Paddle to the Amazon* on page 48), Don Starkell decided to paddle a kayak from Hudson Bay 3,000 miles through the Northwest Passage. This is Don's diary of this journey from Churchill, Manitoba, to Tuktoyaktuk, close to Alaska, a voyage by kayak (paddled on water or dragged on a sled over the ice) that took him three Arctic summers and almost cost him his life. Through this compelling book we find ourselves sharing his blazing, driving determination to reach his goal, as he closes in on his destination, with his supplies running out and his ocean highway freezing over, making death a near certainty. Armchair travel at its best.

Don Starkell has a thing about paddling. In 1980, he won a place in the Guinness Book of World Records by paddling a canoe 12,000 miles from Winnipeg, Canada, to the mouth of the Amazon in Belém, Brazil. Ten years later, he decided instead to head north across the top of the world; this time he took a kayak. *Paddle to the Arctic* is the account of his journey, presented in diary form and illustrated with 24 pages of photographs and 12 maps. Starkell's window of opportunity was small; he had only the months between June and September to cover the 3,000 miles from Churchill to Tuktoyaktuk before the winter freeze set in. In all, he made three attempts before finally reaching his goal. The challenges were extreme: terrible storms, ice, capsizes, even polar bears. At times, he was forced to drag his kayak over impassable ice flows; at others, he nearly died from starvation. In the end, however, he achieved what seemed impossible: conquering the Northwest Passage in an Inuit kayak, a feat never before accomplished. *Paddle to the Arctic* is a hair-raising chronicle of one man's epic quest and eventual triumph.

About the Author Don Starkell (December 7, 1932 - January 28, 2012) was a Canadian adventurer, diarist and author, perhaps best known for his achievements in canoeing.