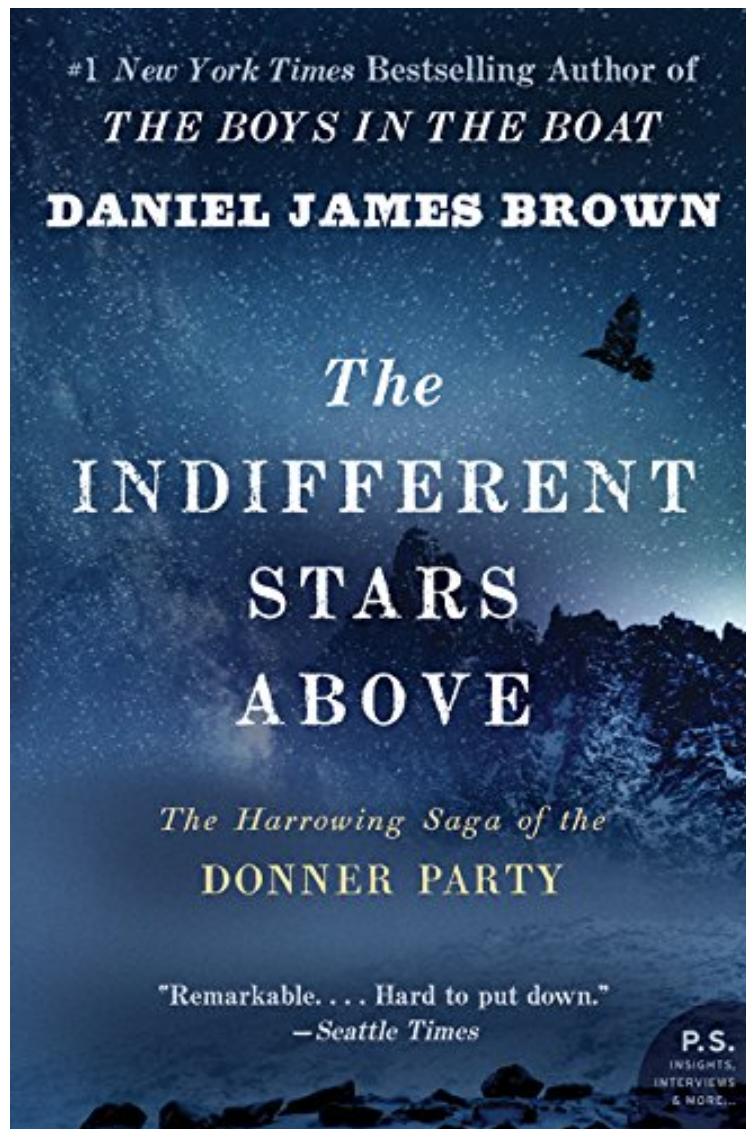


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The Indifferent Stars Above: The Harrowing Saga of the Donner Party

Daniel James Brown

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#19651 in Books Daniel James Brown 2015-09-22 2015-09-22 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .94 x 5.311, .63 #File Name: 0061348112376 pages The Indifferent Stars Above The Harrowing Saga of a Donner Party Bride | File size: 33.Mb

Daniel James Brown : The Indifferent Stars Above: The Harrowing Saga of the Donner Party before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Indifferent Stars Above: The Harrowing Saga of the Donner Party:

25 of 25 people found the following review helpful. Excellent historical context and detail By Regina Rodriguez-

MartinTwice I found this book hard to put down. When I finished it the first time, I started over again and read it all the way through again. I really liked the historical details that Brown gives such as the economic climate of the 1840s, the mores and customs of the time, what kinds of things the settlers were likely to have packed, etc. That means he stops the action of the story to provide such details, which might bother you if you want a quick action story, but I loved Brown's style. He begins his narrative before the settlers begin their journey and intersperses background information throughout their story of hardship. I liked learning such things as the political and economic context of the American western migration, getting a glimpse of nineteenth century family dynamics and hearing what modern climatologists say about the weather the Donner party endured. If you like historical context and details, this is your Donner party story.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting, but with issuesBy D. MigliaccioThis is a fascinating story, told in detail that indicates exhaustive research - but still it felt a bit flat as well as somewhat padded. In trying to describe the events by focusing on a single participant, author Brown is forced into a fair amount of conjecture, and never really makes the character of Sarah Graves Fosdick come to life.The epilogue in particular goes on too long - each segment could more or less be boiled down to "I drove to this place where stuff happened, and thought about the stuff that happened."Incidentally, there's a rather glaring formatting error in the Kindle edition of this book: following Chapter 17, chapters 16 and 17 are repeated.before the narrative heads into the Epilogue. This only adds to the sense that the material has been padded to make it book-length, and should be corrected.46 of 47 people found the following review helpful. EnthrallingBy debeehrDaniel James Brown's account of the Donner party disaster is a riveting retelling of this ill-fated journey. He has done copious research, not only on the Donner party itself, but on the physical, emotional and psychological effects of prolonged starvation and exposure, and manages to weave it all into a fascinating narrative. He presents his material so vividly I almost felt as if I were there seeing it all firsthand. His choice to follow Sarah Foster's journey, both through his book and actually physically in taking a driving trip overland, was a wise one. The sympathetic portrait he paints of this young woman, scarcely out of her teens yet faced with more horrific, agonizing decisions than most people experience in a lifetime, gives the book a center and an immediacy that it otherwise might have lacked. Definitely this is going to become must-reading for all those interested in the fate of the Donner Party.

From the #1 bestselling author of *The Boys in the Boat* comes an unforgettable epic of family, tragedy, and survival on the American frontier“An ideal pairing of talent and material... Engrossing... A deft and ambitious storyteller.” — Mary Roach, *New York Times Book Review*In April of 1846, twenty-one-year-old Sarah Graves, intent on a better future, set out west from Illinois with her new husband, her parents, and eight siblings. Seven months later, after joining a party of pioneers led by George Donner, they reached the Sierra Nevada Mountains as the first heavy snows of the season closed the pass ahead of them. In early December, starving and desperate, Sarah and fourteen others set out for California on snowshoes, and, over the next thirty-two days, endured almost unfathomable hardships and horrors.In this gripping narrative, *New York Times* bestselling author Daniel James Brown sheds new light on one of the most legendary events in American history. Following every painful footstep of Sarah's journey with the Donner Party, Brown produces a tale both spellbinding and richly informative.

From *Booklist*The story of the ill-fated Donner party, a group of nineteenth-century settlers en route to California who became snowbound in the Sierra Nevada mountains and resorted to cannibalism to survive, remains an iconic moment in American history. Given the story's inherent elements of horror and heroism, it is surprising that this account, told from the point of view of a young bride who survived the tragedy, is finally such an uninteresting book. Part of the problem is the author's inability to incorporate his copious background material into the flow of the narrative (readers probably don't need to know about 1840s-era birth-control methods). Even the author's treatment of the tragedy itself, however, feels dully reportorial, without any of the you-are-there drama that Piers Paul Reid brought to *Alive!*, his account of history's second-most-famous cannibalism-survival story, concerning the famous 1972 airplane crash in the Andes. So why bother with this Donner party treatment when so many other, more compelling works exist? The premise itself sets this book apart, and while it's not handled particularly effectively, it will still interest those fascinated by the subject. --David Pitt “An ideal pairing of talent and material. . . . Engrossing. . . . A deft and endearing storyteller.” (Mary Roach, *New York Times Book*)“Daniel James Brown brings the myth to life, transforming faint history class memories into gripping reality.” (BookPage)“[Brown] tells the tale with a novelist's touch.” (Boston Globe)“A compelling retelling of the ghastly events surrounding the Donner party. Daniel James Brown, using one survivor's experience as his focus, moves beyond the cardboard figures depicted in previous accounts and shows how the lucky few endured and survived.” (Irvin Molotsky, author of *The Flag, The Poet and the Song: The Story of the Star-Spangled Banner*)“In this gripping narrative, Brown reveals the extremes of endurance that underlie the history of this nation, and more than that, of humanity in any part of the world, even today, surviving great peril in search of a better life.” (Nina Burleigh)“A skillful, suspenseful study of the Donner Party. ... Brown creates a thorough and unique narrative. A moving man-against-nature tragedy that still resonates today.” (Kirkus s)“Remarkable. ... Hard to put down.” (Seattle Times)From the Back CoverFrom the #1 bestselling author of *The Boys*

in the Boat comes an unforgettable epic of family, tragedy, and survival on the American frontier“An ideal pairing of talent and material.... Engrossing.... A deft and ambitious storyteller.” – Mary Roach, New York Times Book In April of 1846, twenty-one-year-old Sarah Graves, intent on a better future, set out west from Illinois with her new husband, her parents, and eight siblings. Seven months later, after joining a party of pioneers led by George Donner, they reached the Sierra Nevada Mountains as the first heavy snows of the season closed the pass ahead of them. In early December, starving and desperate, Sarah and fourteen others set out for California on snowshoes, and, over the next thirty-two days, endured almost unfathomable hardships and horrors. In this gripping narrative, New York Times bestselling author Daniel James Brown sheds new light on one of the most legendary events in American history. Following every painful footstep of Sarah’s journey with the Donner Party, Brown produces a tale both spellbinding and richly informative.