



## Minds of Winter

Ed O'Loughlin

*Review By Aqpiq Hawkes*



A wrong turn on a road that only leads south takes a young man haunted by broken family connections to a young woman seeking to find hers. Nelson and Fay find themselves caught up in family secrets that could very well be their undoing. Not only are they both trapped by snow in a seemingly inhospitable part of the Western Canadian Arctic, but also upon being thrown together find they may have to trust each other to keep their sanity.

Nelson a Canadian from Alberta and Fay a young woman with Dual Citizen ship between Canada and the UK discover connections in their families past that go back through time to the earliest European race to the Pole and desire to seek out the Northwest Passage. Clever flashbacks take us to the decks of the Rebus trapped in sea ice and to the shores of ice covered undiscovered islands in Canada's North.

The intertwining of European and Inuit as they help each other to survive. Rifts in time transport us as we follow Fay on her journey to find her Grandfather and Nelson to locate his brother Bert.

It's Bert's research that leads them to the top of the world and the flashbacks that take us around the world from Antarctica to the Arctic. Ed O'Loughlin's research into towns and communities of Canada's Western Arctic is ambitious, the weaving of historical fact with legend and adventure is exhilarating and the lines between reality and fiction are cleverly crossed keeping you engaged throughout the book. The historical significance of many of the events in the book blending with the discovery of the "Arnold 294 Chronometer" that appeared at an auction house over one hundred years after it was supposedly lost in the Arctic along with Sir John Franklin's ships the HMS Erebus and HMS Terror.

Mystery, murder and political intrigue span generations of Arctic expeditions and the race for Sovereignty of Canada's North. Minds of Winter transports us through time and abruptly drops us into this present time with the knowledge that the Arctic will be forever wild and unforgiving.

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