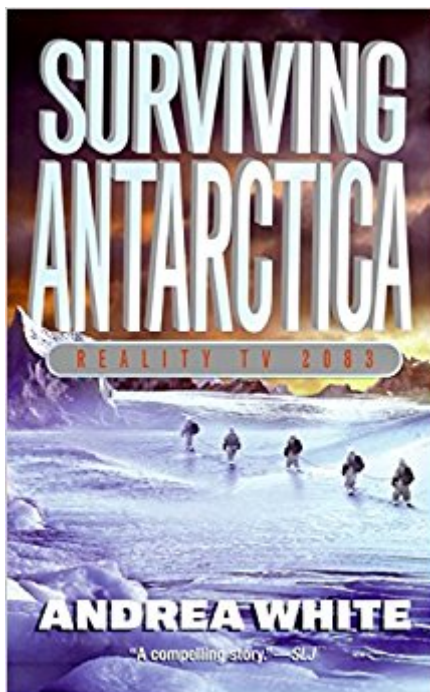


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# Surviving Antarctica: Reality TV 2083



## Synopsis

The wind and snow blow so hard, you can't see your hand in front of your face. Your heating fuel is nearly gone, and so is your food. How do you survive? Five fourteen-year-olds face this desperate situation on a deadly journey in Antarctica. It is 2083. They are contestants on a reality TV show, Antarctic Survivor, which is set up to recreate Robert F. Scott's 1912 doomed attempt to be the first to reach the South Pole. But in 2083 reality TV is not just an act. Contestants literally relive or die during the simulations of events. Robert Scott and his team were experienced explorers and scientists, but their attempt to reach the Pole proved fatal. What chance does the Antarctic Survivor team have? This action-packed, riveting adventure full of fascinating direct quotes from Scott's journals and other accounts of the expedition is both a heartwrenching drama from the past and a disquieting glimpse into the future. Ages 12+

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 6-10-In 2083, all education in the United States is conducted through television. Shows re-creating historical events like the Battle of the Alamo are used to teach history, and also to give losers in the educational dice roll a chance to earn fame and money. The Secretary of Entertainment, worried about falling ratings, has come up with a splendid idea-re-create Robert F. Scott's 1912 expedition to the South Pole, using 14-year-old kids, most of whom have never even experienced snow. And make sure they are completely isolated by implanting tiny digital cameras directly into their corneas, thus avoiding the need for pesky camera crews who might interfere with

the drama. The five participants are the usual band of misfits, including Grace, an Inuit Eskimo transplanted to Arizona after Alaska is turned into a nuclear waste dump, and Billy, who desperately wants to be voted MVP, but hides snack food from his starving companions. There's also Polly, who has an amazing memory and a surprising capacity for leadership; Robert, great with engines and sheer determination; and Andrew, searching for his special talent and finding unexpected depths of courage. Back in the television studio, a few brave employees surreptitiously help the kids and try to figure out a way to stop the madness. Brisk action, interesting characters, and intriguing (sometimes gruesome) details make this a compelling story, while television's pervasive presence in our lives and the undeniable popularity of the "reality" format give a rather frightening timeliness and believability to the tale.-Mara Alpert, Los Angeles Public Library Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 7-10. In a future where the government plies the public with nonstop reality television to provide distraction from the rampant poverty, and higher education is won or lost on a dice toss, Historical Survivor is the most popular program on the tube. Teens Andrew, Polly, Robert, Billy, and Grace have been chosen from a pool of thousands to reenact Robert F. Scott's fatal 1910-13 expedition to the South Pole in Antarctic Historical Survivor. Like Scott, they will face hidden crevasses, mechanical failure, and frostbite. But while Scott's calamities occurred naturally, the Secretary of Entertainment has made sure the teens' perils are written into the script. Luckily, there are those working on the production determined to save the kids--at any cost. While the writing in this debut novel is fairly pedestrian, the pacing is excellent, and the story swings from one cliff-hanger to the next as the five characters develop in predictable but satisfying ways. A real page-turner, this novel will give readers pause as they ponder the ethics of teens risking their lives in adult-contrived situations for the entertainment of the masses. Jennifer Hubert Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In a dystopian America, the US government has taken over the entertainment industry, using it to control the masses in the wake of civil disturbance. Children under the age of 14 are mandated to watch at least 30 hours of educational TV, after which time, they are finished with traditional schooling, unless they can afford High School and college. To fund their college, all students can try their hand at a dice game or compete on a reality television series that recreates a historical calamity. Our heroes have won the opportunity to recreate Scott's expedition to Antarctica. The book

is fairly engaging, though use of omniscient third person occasionally causes sudden point of view changes which can be jarring. A minor quibble: the character of the Secretary of Education is utterly unbelievable as a politician and a talk show host. This character lacks the polish and charisma one would expect from someone in her position, often resorting to brutish interviewing techniques. The book also suffers a bit from bad pacing - the first half of the book being taken up with events that happen prior to the arrival at Antarctica, however, the action picks up after that and it is worth sticking with it until the end.

I read this book in two days. and it only took me two days because I started it late at night. It's full of action and adventure while offering interesting insight into how different people react in a crisis. I'm sure a ton of research went into this, as well, so I actually feel I learned something about history even though this is a science fiction book, set in a rather dystopian future. I definitely found the book to be a great read and will be sharing it with my daughters.

This is a good story - different to anything I have read on this subject. I have read so many books about Arctic experiences (fiction & non-fiction) & this one was not at all what I expected. However I got caught up in the kids & their problems. It reminded me of the Hunger Games stories. The ending was great except I was hoping that Kalyn would be joining Javier.

Bought here as a summer read requirement. Would not be my choice of summer reading, but not too boring.

I read this book in 1.5 days, because I simply could not put it down. The real enjoyment for me was the physical adventure on the ice. Imagining myself in these kids' position was easy. You might have to push past the beginning and the dreary description of our country and government in the future, but it's worth it.

My 13-year-old had to read this book for 8th-grade year. He enjoyed it.

The book started off a bit slow as we get introduced to the future world of America and the characters, but once the kids are all together, the book takes off. It's a wonderful adventure and I read it in one day. Very good!!!

I thought this was a great book for Middle School kids! Very adventurous! Makes you wonder where reality tv will go.....is this possible?

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