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The Ice Balloon: S. A. Andree and the Heroic Age of Arctic Exploration

By Alec Wilkinson

Blackstone Audiobooks, 2012. CD-Audio. Condition: New. Unabridged. Language: English . Brand New. In this grand and astonishing account, Alec Wilkinson brings us the story of S. A. Andree, the visionary Swedish aeronaut who, in 1897, during the great age of Arctic endeavor, left to discover the North Pole by flying to it in a hydrogen balloon. Called by a British military officer the most original and remarkable attempt ever made in Arctic exploration, Andree's expedition was followed by nearly the entire world, and it made him an international legend. The Ice Balloon begins in the late nineteenth century, when nations--compelled by vanity, commerce, and science--competed with one another for the greatest discoveries and newspapers covered every journey. Wilkinson describes how in Andree several contemporary themes intersected. He was the first modern explorer--the first to depart for the Arctic unencumbered by notions of the romantic age and the first to be equipped with the newest technologies--but no explorer had ever left with more uncertainty regarding his fate, since none had ever flown over the horizon and into the forbidding region of ice. In addition to portraying the period, The Ice Balloon gives us a brief history of the exploration of...



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