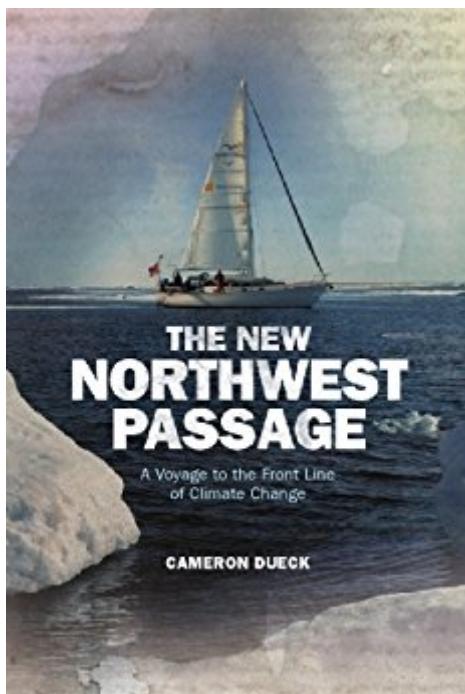


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# The New Northwest Passage: A Voyage To The Front Line Of Climate Change



## **Synopsis**

In the summer of 2009 Cameron Dueck and the rest of the crew of the Silent Sound completed a journey made by fewer people than have climbed Mt. Everest; they sailed through the infamous Northwest Passage. These waters are normally locked in ice, but due to climate change it is now possible to sail here for a few short weeks each summer. Their voyage from Victoria to Halifax carried them through raging storms and mechanical breakdowns and took them into sea ice that threatened to crush their hull. But more importantly it brought them face to face with modern Arctic life in tiny, isolated Inuit communities where the challenge of climate change is added to the already crushing load of social and economic woes. Each person they met along the way added their story to this colourful tale of life in the Arctic; a unique place where the climate change experience is affected by the critical and ongoing debates over sovereignty, resources and cultural assimilation.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

The book, The New Northwest Passage by Cameron Dueck, was well written and described the shortfalls and strengths of his boat, the stress during times of worry with fog, ice and rough weather,

as well as the happy encounters with the native people, the beautiful northern lights and the whole adventure of being in a less traveled landscape. I learned things I didn't know but I have not really changed my mind to thinking man is the main cause of the warming trend. Obviously there have been other times of climate change throughout the ages. I also had not realized that Canada played such a large part of the Northwest's Passage history. At any rate the adventure of reading the book was rewarding.

I found this a very honest account of joys and difficulties encountered along the way for this momentous journey. It was especially interesting to me as I will be travelling the north west passage in about two weeks time, although in a slightly larger vessel.

Fascinating....Raw... Historical..Humble..Nail biting... Educational..Great story for anyone interested in the polar north....Thank you for this tour of the north and its social challenges...A must read... Cameron you are my idol

The condition of the book is good!

I just completed reading the New Northwest Passage given to me at Christmas by an elderly aunt who said, "I thought you'd have something in common with this guy". She was dead on. My wife and I lived aboard our sailboat in Victoria, BC, during the author's trip preparations. I did hear about Silent Sound, but sadly we never crossed paths. I have been a sailor for over four decades and relate to many aspects of the joys and challenges of extended cruising, in unknown waters, sometimes with novices. Also, I have spent many years now travelling to the NWT, Yukon, Nunavut, Nunavik, and Labrador working with the Inuit in areas of mental health and social development. As is the case with many authors who I read, I was prepared to disagree with Dueck's insights about the Inuit people, as many non-aboriginals just don't "get them". But I found myself nodding and smiling at his assessments of life up North, and the generous character of the people. Over the years I may have had the chance to meet more healthy leaders, Elders, and youth than he did, and so I am more optimistic about their future. Nevertheless, I felt the author presented a fair and honest portrait of these remarkable people and their territory, and was really fortunate to have experienced the depth of their hospitality, and to share it with us in a compelling read.

If you are an armchair adventurer as I am, you might find this record of a dangerous journey to be

just the thing. There is a film, which I had seen first, of this same journey and so whilst reading I had these wonderful pictures playing in my mind - pristine landscapes, mournfully isolated villages, joyfully hospitable people. The author manages to convey the risks well enough for me to think that the crew were all quite MAD, in the British sense of the word. But then, if it weren't for those who are willing to set out from the shore, we'd all know a lot less about our world, wouldn't we? Although my family and I leave a rather small footprint, I wouldn't call myself an environmentalist. However, the author helps make the connection between climate change and survival for those who live in the remote communities of Canada's far north. Having grown up on the Canadian prairies one might not think I had anything in common with those living in Sachs Harbour or Tuktoyaktuk, but I found there was a similarity in the kind of hospitality the author spoke of, the simple "you're welcome to come to our house and do your laundry" sort of hospitality, and of course, the connection to the land for one's survival. Weather is everything for people who farm or people who depend on hunting/fishing for their survival. I wanted to meet those people and share a meal together - although perhaps not a meal of Beluga whale and caribou kidney. I could "feel" what it would be like to sit around the table and hear their stories. What I found most surprising and fascinating is the way the author conveyed the realities of life on the Silent Sound during those months. This was also one of the reason why I am so thankful that I could enjoy this adventure vicariously. Three or four people who are cold, crabby and cramped on a boat for several months together? The author not only conveyed the tension, but pretty much bares himself to the reader in the process. You get to be inside his head. I'm pretty sure it wouldn't have been the SILENT sound if I'd been on the boat with them. Besides being an educational read, it's also a darn good adventure story! Give it a read and then keep your eyes open for a chance to see the award-winning film.

I loved reading "The New Northwest Passage". At first I hesitated to read about a sailing adventure and about the Arctic, two topics I knew nothing about. I had read some books on climate change though. But once I started reading it, I had a hard time putting it down. I especially appreciated all the research Cameron Dueck had done on the history and the background of customs and lifestyles of the people he and his crew had visited on this voyage. "The New Northwest Passage" is very educational about an area of North America that most of us will never see and most of us hardly ever hear about. Cameron Dueck's passion for sailing, for the outdoors and for adventure just jumps at you from the page. His writing style is beautiful and easy to read, even for someone who isn't familiar with the topics and is an ETL (English as Third Language).

I had the privilege of meeting Cameron and his crew on their journey. I downloaded the book as soon as it was available. I half expected a more text book approach and was thrilled to find a wonderful, easy to read story. Valuable history and knowledge was imparted in a compelling entertaining story of an incredible journey. It was just like sitting and talking to him. Great job Cameron.

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