

Adventurous Ink

Dear Boris,

My name is Tim. I run a book club for outdoor folk. Every month I send them a new book, packed with inspiration and insights gleaned from encounters with the natural world.

I had hoped to feature the enclosed book, Caroline Alexander's 'The Endurance', her re-telling of the greatest adventure story ever told, that of Shackleton's legendary Antarctic expedition. I had hoped it would help our community deal with their own epic feats of endurance.

Alas, the rights have reverted to the author and a reprint proved impossible, so I pondered how I could secure the greatest benefit from my sole personal copy? Which is why I am sending it to you.

The story is one of triumph in the face of the greatest adversity, thanks to Shackleton's visionary leadership. As our nation is desperately in need of great leaders at this grim time, I hoped you might take some tips.

I know you are fond of historic literature, though may I suggest that this account is a considerable improvement on the jingoistic triumphalism of your preferred pro-colonial prose.

Chief amongst Shackleton's leadership qualities was his concern for the morale of his crew. His men always believed he would lead them safely through. I wonder how many share the same faith in you?

Tim

