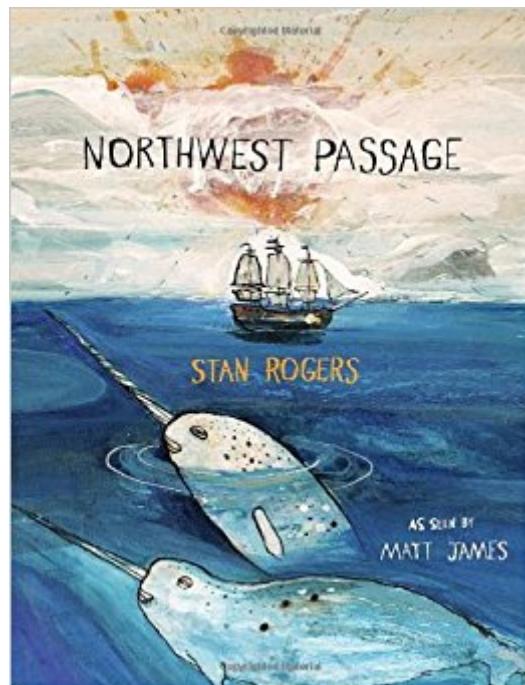


The book was found

# Northwest Passage



## Synopsis

For hundreds of years explorers attempted to find the Northwest Passage — a route through the islands of Canada — north to the Pacific Ocean and Asia. Others attempted to find a land route. Many hundreds of men perished in the attempt until finally, in 1906, Roald Amundsen completed the voyage by ship. Today, global warming has brought the interest in the passage back to a fever pitch as nations contend with each other over its control and future uses. The historic search inspired Canadian folk musician Stan Rogers to write "Northwest Passage," a song that has become a widely known favorite since its 1981 release. It describes Stan's own journey overland as he contemplates the arduous journeys of some of the explorers, including Kelsey, Mackenzie, Thompson and Franklin. The song is moving and haunting, a paean to the spirit of the explorers and adventure, and to the beauty of the vast land and icy seas. The lyrics are accompanied by the striking paintings of multiple award-winning artist Matt James. Matt brings a unique vision to the song and the history behind it, annotating his illustrations with marginalia about the explorers, including the native peoples of the north. The book also contains the music for the song, a note on the Northwest Passage, maps, information about Stan Rogers (as well as a final verse of the song that was never recorded) and notes on the illustrations. Following on the success of Canadian Railroad Trilogy, this is another beautiful book in which a memorable song illuminates a fascinating history that has taken on new resonance today.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 56 pages

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Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 9.8 x 12.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #934,923 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #64 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Canada #67 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Popular #142 in Books > Travel > Polar Regions > Arctic

Age Range: 6 and up

Grade Level: Kindergarten and up

## Customer Reviews

Praise for *I Know Here*: "[S]imple and profound." — The New York Times

Winner of the Governor General's Literary Award for Children's Illustration

A Kirkus Best Book Finalist for the Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Award

"This stunning portrayal of early efforts to explore Canada's Northwest Passage presents Rogers' 1981 song in combination with glorious illustrations . . . Both realistic and allusive, these images are as haunting as the song." — Kirkus, starred review

"For a unique and exquisite view of the story of explorers' search for a safe passage through the Arctic Ocean to the Pacific, look no further than this beautifully crafted title inspired by a well-known Canadian folk song." — School Library Journal, starred review

"[T]he sweep of James' paintings is spectacular; the invitation to 'make a Northwest Passage to the sea,' irresistible." — Horn Book

"This is a dynamic and original introduction to the age of exploration." — Library Media Connections

Stan Rogers (1949-1983) was a gifted Canadian musician whose fame is known throughout the English-speaking world of folk music. He began his musical career as a teen, playing as a rock bassist, and then started writing songs about his Maritime roots, which were recorded on his first album, *Fogarty's Cove*. He had a talent for writing about the Canadian experience; about the people who worked on farms, and in mines and fisheries across the country. He traveled frequently during the last years of his life and tragically died in an airline fire. The Canadian Conference of the Arts posthumously awarded Stan Rogers the Diplôme d'Honneur. The Ontario Council of Folk Festivals awarded him the Estelle Klein Lifetime Achievement Award, and SOCAN, a National Lifetime Achievement Award. Rogers' music has been nominated twice for a Juno Award. The musical *A Matter of Heart* features Stan Rogers' songs and stories, which continue to move people young and old.

Matt James is a noted painter, illustrator and musician. His first picture book, *Yellow Moon, Apple Moon* by Pamela Porter, won the New Mexico Book Award and was a finalist for a Governor General's Award. *I Know Here* by Laurel Croza, won the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award and the Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award, and was a finalist for the Governor General's Award, the TD Canadian Children's Literature Award, the Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award and the Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Illustrator's Award. Matt has most recently illustrated *Northwest Passage* by Stan Rogers. He lives in Toronto. [www.mattjames.ca](http://www.mattjames.ca)

Amazing voice and amazing artist...lost too soon to a jerk who needed to smoke in an airplane restroom. Funny, image evoking, tear jerking, excitement producing and history teacher...melded into one amazing performer.

nicely done

I wanted a book explaining the quest for the Northwest Passage. This book is based on an obscure Canadian folk song and a cross-Canada road trip by the folk singer's devoted fan (the author.) The background information that was presented was anti-technology and rah rah for Indians, the Knowers of All Things. Too much THE ARCTIC ICE IS ALL MELTING!!!!!! nonsense and not enough about the exciting explorations. And Canada-centric. All of the listed explorers are British, no mention of the Perry expedition or, strangely, Matthew Henson, who lived with the Indians, spoke their language, and took their advice for a successful mission. Weird, since the book seems to be railing against the Franklin expedition as Ignorers of All-Knowing Indians..Anyway, I think I would love this more if I were Canadian. Maybe. I'm giving it an extra star for the interesting illustrations, but too many of them feature the author on a road trip. Who cares about the author OR the folk singer? I want a book about the Northwest Passage.

Northwest Passage is a 12 x 9 hardcover children's book that is illustrated by Matt James. Mr. James drew his inspiration for his book from the song "Northwest Passage," written by Canadian singer Stan Rogers. The song tells the story of Mr. Rogers longing to take the Northwest Passage (a route that started in Canada's section of the Arctic Ocean, went through the Pacific Ocean and ended in Asia). This was apparently a perilous journey that many men search and died for until it was finally completed in 1906 by Roald Amundsen. In this book we see Rogers driving a bus around and reflecting on his life and comparing it to the men who sought this passage before him. The illustration style in the book is not necessarily my favorite as it comes off a bit juvenile at times. The main flow of the book is also interrupted several times to give pages of background/history in tiny font. At the end of the book is Rogers song set to verse and a gallery of the Passage explorers, which I found most interesting of all. It's a clever book, but unless you are familiar with the song or the importance of the Northwest Passage, this book probably isn't for you.

Came across this at a friends house and loved it. It is essentially the Stan Rogers song mixed in with history about Franklin and Arctic exploration. I've read it more than my kids!

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