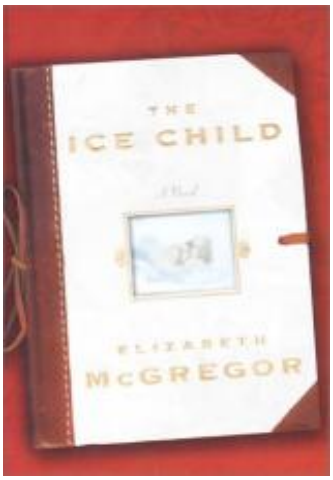
The Ice Child

by Elizabeth McGregor



About the Book

When Jo Harper falls in love with maverick archaeologist Doug Marshall, she also falls into Doug's obsession: the disappearance of the Franklin Expedition. In 1845, Sir John Franklin and his crew of one hundred and twenty men sailed two ships to the Arctic and were never seen again. Doug has spent his career in search of what happened to them, sacrificing his first marriage and his relationship with his son, John, along the way. But as he and Jo plan their future together, a shocking accident forever changes their lives.

Devastated by the accident, John goes into self-imposed hiding. Jo, feeling abandoned, is confronted by the unthinkable--her young son, Sam, has a life-threatening disease and his only hope of survival lies with John Marshall. Desperate to find John, Jo soon learns that his fate is curiously tied to the Franklin Expedition. Haunted by Franklin and his own past, John has ventured into the ice floes of the Arctic in search of answers to what happened to Franklin's crew and to his own life. Unbeknownst to him, a frantic search is on; not only to save his life, but the life of another he doesn't know is in jeopardy.

Discussion Guide

1. Are there points of similarity between the three mothers (Jo, Alicia, and the polar bear) featured in **The Ice Child**?

2. What points of similarity exist, if any, among the three sons of **The Ice Child** (John, Sam, and polar bear cub)?

3. Does John's relationship with his father have any bearing on John's relationship with Catherine? Why or why not?

4. As citizens of a modern age, do we have (or does the possibility exist for) an exploration that parallels what the Franklin Expedition meant to the people who lived in Victorian times? Does the story of **The Ice Child** provide one?

5. What do you think motivates Alicia's change of heart towards Jo and Sam?

6. Does the character of Catherine Takkiruq and her relationship to John, Jo, and Sam have any bearing to the relationship between the Esquimaux that Crozier encountered?

7. Working from historical fact, author Elizabeth McGregor has imagined the possible outcome of the Franklin Expedition. From what you have read in **The Ice Child**, what circumstances prevented the Expedition from a successful outcome?

8. Many of the characters in **The Ice Child** are searching for something--a passage, an answer, a reason, a cure. Is every search successful? Noble? Necessary?

Author Bio

Elizabeth McGregor has held jobs as a patent attorney manager, teacher, and antiques dealer. But it was winning a national short story competition that brought her to her passion for writing. Her previous book **The Ice Child** turned her life around and established an international reputation, selling in 17 countries. **A Road Through the Mountains** was written soon afterward. Elizabeth lives with her daugther Kate on the south coast of England, in Dorset, where she is completing her new novel.

Critical Praise

"The resonance of history is hardly an unusual theme, but in McGregor's adept hands it becomes the stuff of a riveting narrative certain to hold the attention of fiction readers across genres.... Readers will have no desire to escape this all-consuming novel until the last page is turned."

The Ice Child
by Elizabeth McGregor

Publication Date: May 1, 2001
Genres: Fiction
Hardcover: 372 pages
Publisher: Dutton Adult
ISBN-10: 0525945679
ISBN-13: 9780525945673