



SHONA RIDDELL is the great-great-granddaughter of Harriet Cripps, who was born on Auckland Island in 1851 during the tiny and short-lived British 'Hardwicke' settlement. In 2016, Shona sailed to the wild and remote subantarctic islands to visit her ancestor's unusual birthplace. A writer by profession for 20 years, Shona lives with her husband and two daughters in Wellington, New Zealand. She enjoys cold, windy weather and stories about remote locations.



Discover the gripping stories of the men and women who have faced the challenge of the fragile yet fearsome subantarctic islands.



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TRIAL OF STRENGTH

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Adventures and Misadventures on the Wild and Remote Subantarctic Islands

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'They're not covered in ice, but they can be brutally cold. Despite our globalized, 21st-century world of frequent flying, they are rarely visited. Most of them are uninhabited by humans, yet they are teeming with wildlife.'

The subantarctic islands in the Roaring Forties and Furious Fifties latitudes circle the globe above Antarctica. They are buffeted by wind and rain all year round, and are full of exotic plants and animals.

Sometimes known as the 'forgotten islands' due to their remoteness, New Zealand's and Australia's subantarctic islands are protected World Heritage sites, recognized globally for their unique environments. The islands have also had their share of human visitors over the centuries, including intrepid explorers, plundering sealers, optimistic farmers, isolated astronomers, desperate castaways, wartime coastwatchers, pioneering scientists, and adventure tourists.

Written by a descendant of two subantarctic settlers from Britain, and featuring stunning photographs, *Trial of Strength* brings these historical tales to life for a 21st-century audience, while inspiring a lasting appreciation for some of the most remote parts of our planet.