Kidnapped and taken to a frozen land after the fierce battle with Lord Morgarath, Will and Evanlyn are bound for Skandia as captives aboard a fearsome wolfship. Halt has sworn to rescue his young apprentice, and he will do anything to keep his promise—even defy his King. Expelled from the Rangers he has served so loyally, Halt is joined by Will's friend Horace as he travels toward Skandia. On their way, they are challenged again and again by freelance knights—but Horace knows a thing or two about combat. Soon his skills begin to attract the attention of knights and warlords for miles around. But will he and...
The Icebound Land (2006) is the third fantasy novel in the Ranger's Apprentice series, following The Burning Bridge. In the previous volume, Will and Evanlyn burned the bridge over the Fissure, but were captured by Skandians. The Araluen forces broke Morgarath's army and then Horace challenged Morgarath himself.

In this novel, Will is a Ranger apprentice. He is small and quick and deadly with his bow and knives.

Evanlyn Wheeler is an Araluen woman, but she has used a false name to protect her father from extortion. She is really Princess Cassandra, the daughter of King Duncan of Araluen.

Halt is a full Ranger, dangerous and feared. He has become used to Will and his incessant questions.

Horace is Will's friend and a knight trainee. He is very good with sword and lance, seeming to be a natural armsman.

Erak is a Skandian Jarl and captain of the raider ship Wolfwind. He and his crew have escaped from the battle of the Plains and are heading home. He is also taking Will and Evanlyn with him to be sold as slaves.

In this story, the Wolfwind is caught by a storm before reaching Cape Shelter and is blown south. Will has never been on a ship before and the huge waves are very scary. He and Evanlyn are tied to the mast to keep them from being washed overboard, but Will has never known such fear as when the waves break over the ship and flood the deck.

The Wolfwind finally sails beyond Cape Shelter and beaches on Skorghijl Island. With the storm season upon them, it would be too dangerous to try to reach Skandia. So the Wolfwind crew will wait out the season on the island.

The crew settles into the crude barracks and messhall. Naturally, all the menial chores are done by Will and Evanlyn. Then another wolfship arrives, without a mast and riding low in the water.

Wolf Fang is owned by Slagor, a Skandian Skirl -- ship captain -- who had decided to sail south during a lull in the storms. He had hoped to take the best prizes while the other wolfships were awaiting the end of the season, but this was obviously an unwise decision. Slagor is not a very good captain, for he is foolish and a coward. His crew are petty criminals, who have joined him only for the wages and loot.

Meanwhile, Halt tries to gain permission to rescue Will and Evanlyn, but his requests are denied by Crowley -- leader of the Rangers -- and King Duncan is avoiding him. So Halt gets himself banished from Araluen for a year. Gilan tries to accompany him into exile, but Halt convinces him that
one of them should stay behind to hunt for Foldar, Morgarath's escaped lieutenant.

However, Halt finds himself unable to refuse Horace. The two travel across the Narrow Sea to Gallia and proceed north toward Skandia. They are constantly delayed by Gallian knights demanding tolls to cross minor bridges, but Horace clears the way.

Finally, Halt paints a green oak leave on Horace's shield so that the Gallians will know his identity. Most knights encountered afterward fled rather than facing the feared Knight of the Order of the Oak Leaf. Horace does complain about using the unearned title of knight, but Halt overcomes his qualms.

Then they reach a small town and take rooms in an inn. Horace and Halt have real beds to sleep on. But then Deparnieux -- the local warlord -- arrives to challenge Horace to a duel.

This tale takes Will and Evanlyn to the small town of Hallasholm. Erak gives them to Oberjarl Ragnak and they are separated, with Evanlyn assigned to the kitchen and Will working in the yard. Halt and Horace are delayed by snow in the passes to Skandia.

This story continues with The Battle for Skandia. Read and enjoy!

Highly recommended for Flanagan fans and for anyone else who enjoys tales of edged combat, covert reconnaissance, and courageous youngsters. For those who have not previously read this series, the initial volume is The Ruins of Gorlan.

-Arthur W. Jordin

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The Icebound Land (Rangers Apprentice, Book 3) by John Flanagan 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!