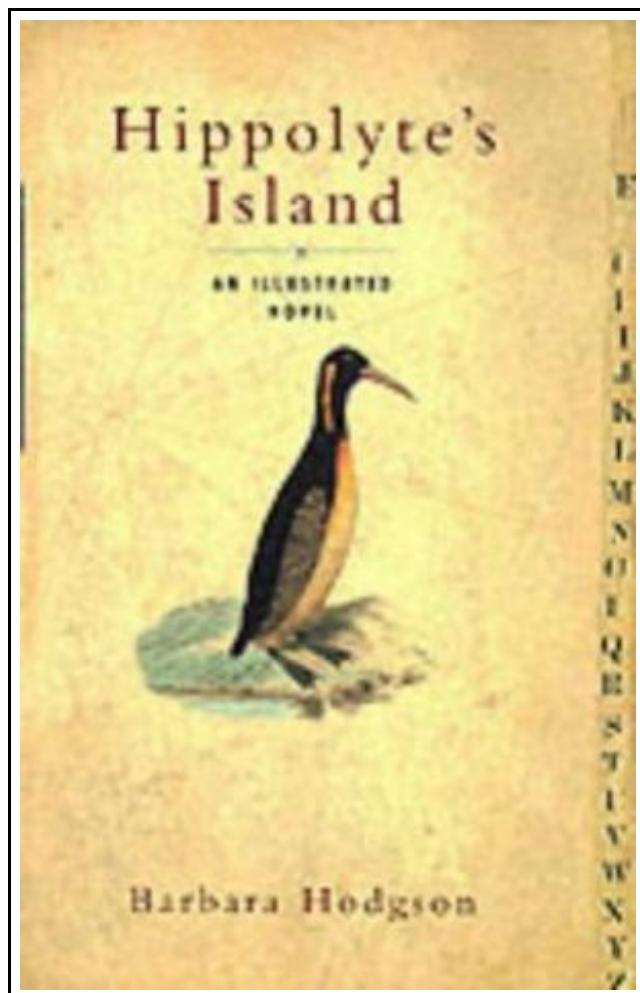


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Chronicle Books, 2001. Book Condition: New. Brand New, Unread Copy in Perfect Condition. A+ Customer Service! Summary: Hippolyte Webb of Vancouver historian, travel consultant, botanist, linguist, and writer has scratched out a living by creating and selling a travel magazine, and when we find him in his rather neglected bachelor pad between trips, we learn about his plant of und his next excursion. He'll sell a book about the venture, he decides, and use the advance to get there. Most of his wandering have been on land, and the more obscure part of the land the better. Nothing heretofore has been on water, for a very simple reason: Webb doesn't know how to sail. But the protagonist of Barbara Hodgson's Hippolyte's Island sure likes sailing maps and charts, the older the better. They fascinate him; in fact, all maps fascinate him, to the point that even when he looks up at his cracked and stained ceiling, he thinks of exotic travel. He calls it his ceilingscape, and as more plaster falls onto his soggy old couch, the resulting patch looks to him not like something that needs immediate repair, but an intriguing dried-out lake bed. His colorful description of the ceilingscape gives the reader an idea of what makes Webb tick: It had already undergone much geological activity. Above stretched a coastline of stains, a three-dimensional terrain of bulges and flakes, charting years of slowly encroaching water damage. Beginning in the east, appropriately at the window, a voyage round this head-over-heels expanse followed a string of long fjords of dampness. Thin tentacles crept out from these inlets, the rivers that seemed to feed them. Continuing to the north, the eye navigated tufty patches of trial paints spackley beige, rippled cream, stalactite eggshell. This adventurer can stay home only so long...

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