Book review: 'Island of the Lost: Shipwrecked at the Edge of the World,' by Joan Druett

The author, Joan Druett, is the creator of the "Island" book series, which explores the history of shipwrecks and their survivors. The book cover shows a shipwrecked ship with a lifeboat. The text describes the book's narrative style and the historical events it covers.

The book "Island of the Lost: Shipwrecked at the Edge of the World" covers the story of the 1815 shipwreck of the US brig Commerce at Cape Bojador, Morocco. The ship's captain, James Riley, and his crew survived for four months by building a makeshift cabin and a forge. They eventually found a way to escape and were rescued by a Spanish vessel. The book includes quotes from contemporary accounts and historical records to tell the story.

The book was described as a "masterpiece of historical adventure," and "a resonant meditation on human ingenuity, resilience, and hope." It was praised for its detailed research and vivid storytelling.

The story of the Commerce's crew has been used as a case study in the field of survival at sea. The crew's ability to adapt and thrive in a hostile environment is seen as an inspiration to those facing similar challenges today.

The book was published in 2009 by Harper, and has been well received by critics and readers alike. It has been translated into several languages and has been the subject of academic and popular interest.

The book covers a range of topics, including maritime history, survival at sea, and the human spirit. It is a compelling read for anyone interested in these subjects, and is highly recommended for those who enjoy well-researched and well-told stories of human endurance and resilience.