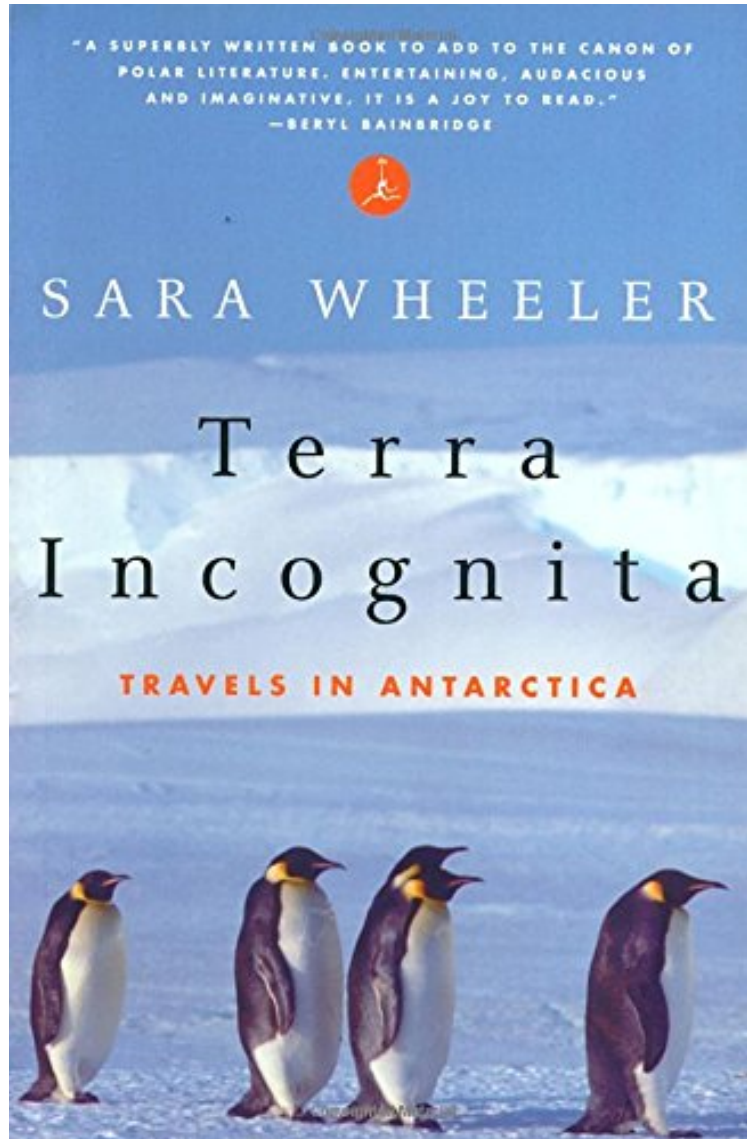


(Download) Terra Incognita: Travels in Antarctica

Terra Incognita: Travels in Antarctica

Sara Wheeler

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Sara Wheeler : Terra Incognita: Travels in Antarctica before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Terra Incognita: Travels in Antarctica:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wheeler's book takes the reader to a fantastic world rarely seen by the ordinary visitor. By Ginette Vachon. Wheeler's book takes the reader to a fantastic world rarely seen by the ordinary visitor. Whoever loves the Antarctic or is curious about the international research stations there will enjoy her book tremendously. Besides, she has a great sense of humour. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

entertaining, vivid and insightful. By A Customer Terra Incognita is a delight. Wheeler is witty, charming and interesting, and her descriptions of both her outer and inner journeys in Antarctica are terrific reading. Along with her own experiences, Wheeler reviews the history of antarctic exploration with particular insight into the British character and experience. I still think Scott was a twit, but I understand his mentality a little better now. While Wheeler lacks the passionate introspection of Byrd's *Alone*, her depiction of her winter on the ice gives a sense of the changes such a powerful environment produces on the psyche. *Terra Incognita* is definitely on the short list of terrific Antarctica books. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... once I got into it this was a very good book. By Kris Slow start but once I got into it this was a very good book.

It is the coldest, windiest, driest place on earth, an icy desert of unearthly beauty and stubborn impenetrability. For centuries, Antarctica has captured the imagination of our greatest scientists and explorers, lingering in the spirit long after their return. Shackleton called it "the last great journey"; for Apsley Cherry-Garrard it was the worst journey in the world. This is a book about the call of the wild and the response of the spirit to a country that exists perhaps most vividly in the mind. Sara Wheeler spent seven months in Antarctica, living with its scientists and dreamers. No book is more true to the spirit of that continent--beguiling, enchanted and vast beyond the furthest reaches of our imagination. Chosen by Beryl Bainbridge and John Major as one of the best books of the year, recommended by the editors of *Entertainment Weekly* and the *Chicago Tribune*, one of the *Seattle Times*'s top ten travel books of the year, *Terra Incognita* is a classic of polar literature.

.com When explorers such as Ernest Shackleton, Roald Amundsen, and Robert Falcon Scott all set off to Antarctica in the early years of the 20th century, the polar regions were among the last truly unexplored areas of the world--and arguably the least hospitable. Scott lost his life, pinned down in a howling blizzard only 11 miles from his supply depot; Shackleton lost his ship, crushed in the ice. Even those who survived the icy wastes did so only with enormous effort. And yet, there is something about Antarctica that beckons people; eighty years after Shackleton's voyage, Sara Wheeler answered the call, leaving her comfortable home for "the Great White." *Terra Incognita* is the result of her sojourn in that legendary land. In addition to chronicling her own encounters with the people and the place, Wheeler brings the past alive as well, through vivid stories about the heroes of polar exploration: Shackleton, Scott, Amundsen, and others who practically become secondary characters in Wheeler's account. But it is her interactions with the living people who make up the community--scientists, drifters, and dreamers who have settled this forbidding landscape--that make *Terra Incognita* a rare and worthy book. From Publishers Weekly Journalist Wheeler (Travels in a Thin Country, on Chile) spent more than two years researching and organizing a seven-month journey to Antarctica, becoming the first foreigner to join the American National Science Foundation's Antarctic Artists' and Writers' Program. Her wry, lucid account of that journey juxtaposes the epic exploits of heroic early Antarctic explorers (Robert Scott, Ernest Shackleton, Roald Amundsen, Douglas Mawson, Apsley Cherry-Garrard, et al.) with her own adventures. She offers a critical survey of the literature of Antarctic exploration and provides as well insights into the historical and cultural impact of Antarctic exploration on the British and Norwegian national consciousnesses. While the hardships the intrepid Wheeler suffered are a faint echo of those endured by polar pioneers, there's still a wealth of absorbing detail to make the point: use and operation of toilets in subzero; foodstuffs and their creative preparation; transportation, be it dogsled, skis or snowmobile; proper layering of protective clothing; the leisure activities and quirks of the varied scientists and support crews ("Frozen Beards") she encountered. Along the way, she offers a rare woman's view of a thoroughly male place, tolerant of women in most cases but downright hostile in some (as in the U.K. zone). Wheeler writes elegantly and movingly about the unearthly landscape and its effects: "The twin peaks... were backlit against a pearly blue sky.... Ribboned crystals imprisoned in the ice glimmered like glowworms. It was swathed in light, pale as an unripe lemon. The scene said to me, 'Do not be afraid.' It was like the moment when I pass back the chalice after holy communion." Her book, fascinating reading for any explorer, armchair or otherwise, concludes with the recipe for her renowned "Bread-and-Butter Pudding (Antarctic Version)." Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. "A triumph . . . I cannot believe that anything better will ever be written about Antarctica." --Daily Telegraph "Compelling . . . leaves the reader with a visceral understanding of the mysterious, even sublime power the poles have exerted on the human imagination, and the desolate beauty that resides there amid the glaciers and icebergs and penguins." --Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times* "I have read many accounts of polar exploration, but never one which so touchingly describes its emotional topography. . . . What she has done could not be done better." --Richard Eyre, *The Independent* "The first funny book about Antarctica." --Los Angeles Times