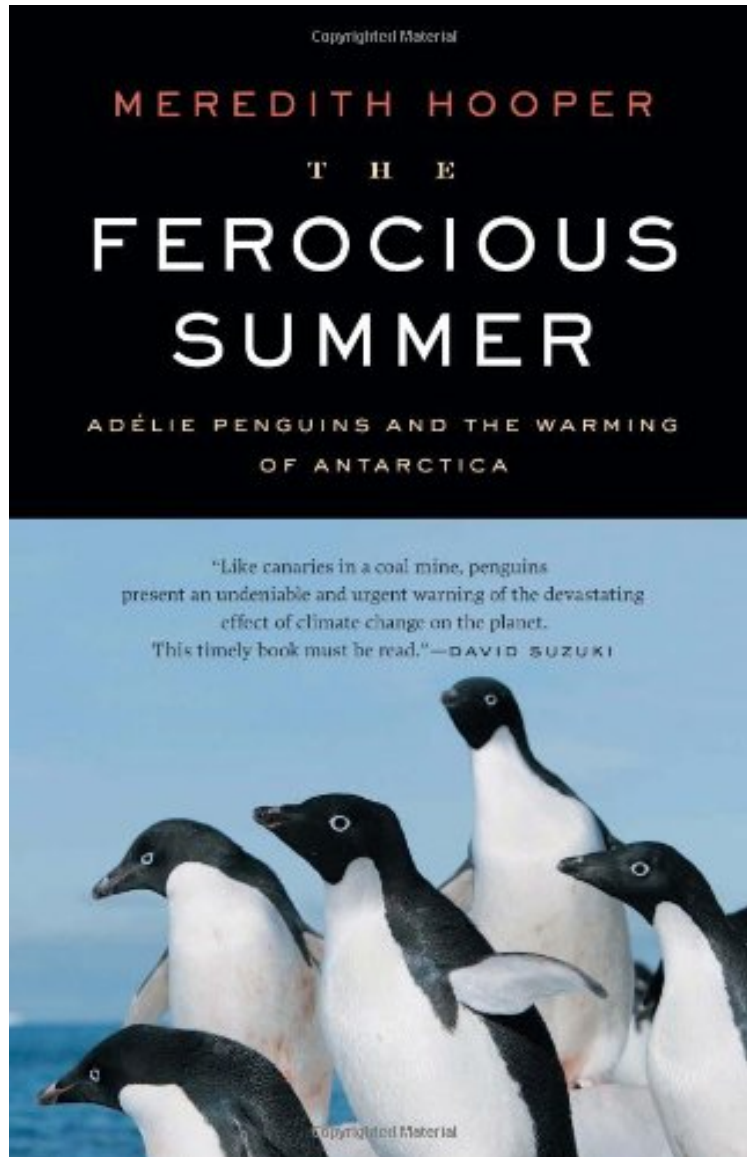


(Download pdf) The Ferocious Summer: Adelie Penguins and the Warming of Antarctica

# The Ferocious Summer: Adelie Penguins and the Warming of Antarctica

*Meredith Hooper*

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**Meredith Hooper : The Ferocious Summer: Adelie Penguins and the Warming of Antarctica** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Ferocious Summer: Adelie Penguins and the Warming of Antarctica:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A summer in the seventh continentBy Runa Fernanda Meredith Hooper, writer and historian, has written a book that is more than about penguins, Antarctica and climate change, although those are the major focuses. She provides a close-up hands-on account of the work of science and scientists in the field, their dedication, passion and persistence. As the pages and the days they record go by, tension grows. The season is horrible, the summer weather the worst anyone could remember. What is that doing to the wildlife? What is that doing to the researchers? What are the implications, the consequences? Every day data must be collected, every day lost to extreme weather creates problems because a break in the data can mean the loss of information that may be a crucial link in the development of the evidence that will validate or disprove hypotheses. Are the Adelies disappearing and if so, why? Is the climate warming? How would that affect Antarctica and hence the rest of the world? The way to find answers to these questions is in the daily slogging of the scientists in the field. In lovely prose Hooper provides many descriptions and insights into the Antarctic itself, the work of science, the plight of the Adelies, the character of the researchers, but perhaps the one thought that will stay longest in my mind is her observation that the sound of extinction is silence. For those of us who are not scientists, who have never engaged in field work, who have never traveled to Antarctica, this book is the next best thing. Not only can one get a taste of the experience, but one can also appreciate the work and dedication of those who are there in person, doing the important work of understanding the world around us.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must read for anyone interested in climate change esp deniers thereof. By Leigh Ross Beautifully written by a scientist/writer of some eloquence. Evokes the ethereal beauty of the Southern Polar regions and combines it with fascinating insights into the closed world of research science.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The ferocious summer By Clare O'Beara As a journalist researching for a book, the author spent a summer on the Antarctic coast with the science team which works to study everything that can possibly be studied, including penguin colonies. The small Adelie penguins had to brave leopard seals and foul weather as they strove to collect shrimps to feed their chicks. As much a portrait of the people and living conditions at Palmer Station as anything, this is a fascinating read. We learn that people who go to shovel snow are paid more than researchers. How do you keep scientists sane and communicative miles from anywhere? By making them take turns to cook for everyone and requiring them to turn up for batik classes. On Sundays nobody had to cook and leftovers were used up, after which all the station's waste was fed through waste disposal and pumped into the ocean. By day the researchers collared unfortunate penguins and made them regurgitate the meals they had just collected, in order to study the shrimp colonies. The Antarctic continent is technically a desert, since no rain falls there; snow falls in abundance. But this summer the snow was more like freezing rain. The wetness continually soaked the young fluffy penguin chicks, which didn't have waterproof feathers. This made it very hard for them to stay warm and their numbers diminished. An already endangered colony was shrinking visibly. The summation was that climate change is bringing warmer weather to the area; and added to fracturing ice shelves and glacier flow, made Meredith Hooper aware that all the scientists could do was study and record the changes.

Although it may seem barren, Antarctica is a vital and increasingly threatened part of the Earth's ecosystem. The Ferocious Summer is writer Meredith Hooper's firsthand account of the effects of climate change on this frozen continent. For one summer, Hooper lived and worked with scientists observing the summer population of Adlie penguins nesting at Palmer Station, the smallest of America's three Antarctic research bases. For Hooper, Palmer's penguins offered a way to understand the complex business of the Earth's changing climate. The Antarctic Peninsula was warming fast. Why? What were scientists doing to understand it? The daily lives of Palmer's few thousand Adlie penguins were becoming key evidence, and pieces of the climate change jigsaw began falling into place. Based on daily diaries, acute personal observations, and interviews with Antarctica's international community of researchers, this book is a fascinating and alarming report from the frontlines of global warming.