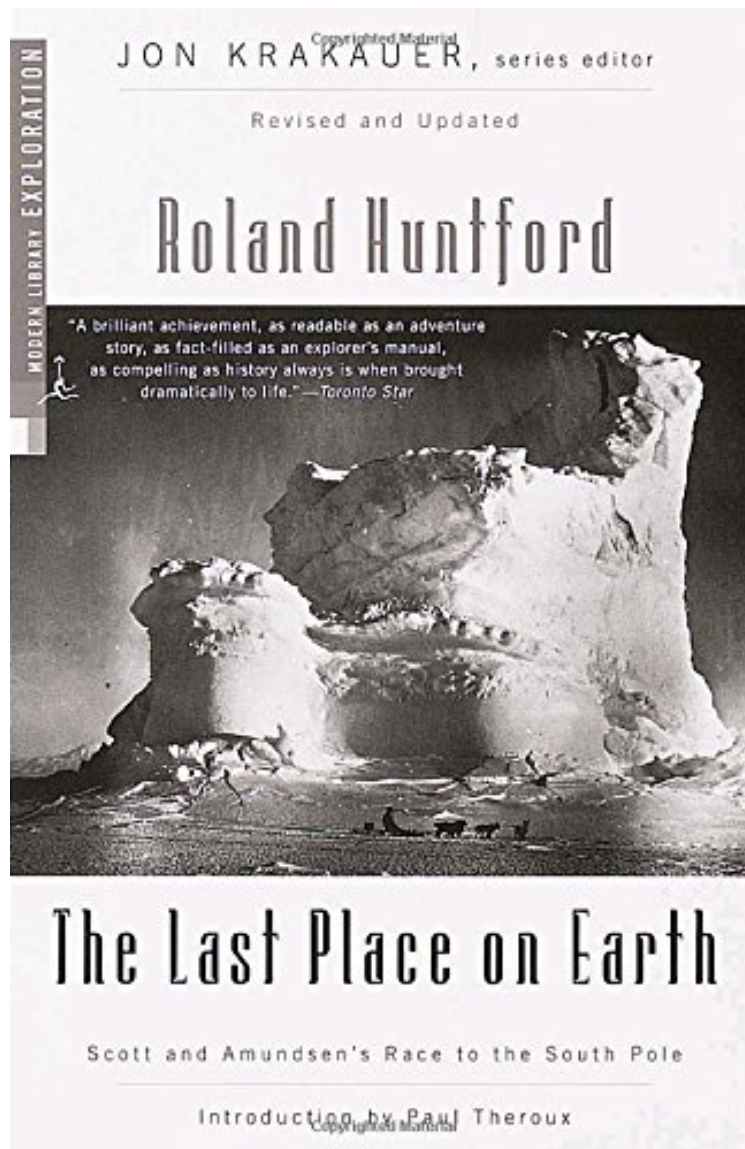


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The Last Place on Earth: Scott and Amundsen's Race to the South Pole, Revised and Updated (Modern Library Exploration)

Roland Huntford

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#52489 in Books Modern Library 1999-09-07 1999-09-07Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x 1.30 x 5.20l, 1.30 #File Name: 0375754741640 pages | File size: 78.Mb

Roland Huntford : The Last Place on Earth: Scott and Amundsen's Race to the South Pole, Revised and Updated (Modern Library Exploration) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Last Place on Earth: Scott and Amundsen's Race to the South Pole, Revised and Updated (Modern Library Exploration):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Don't take ponies to the AntarcticBy B. SmithVery excellent look at the personalities of two polar explorers, their journeys, and their fateful competition finally to reach the South Pole. I was fascinated by the differences between these two people, Amundsen and Scott. Amundsen was methodical to an extreme. He learned about every aspect of polar travel, through visits with explorers, volunteering on expeditions, reading, and direct training about skiing, running dogs, nutrition, sailing into polar waters, etc. etc. He was compulsive about understanding everything possible about everything that might have an impact on an expedition. Amundsen also valued the knowledge of indigenous people about traveling in polar regions, food, clothing, etc. He didn't see them as savages with nothing to teach. Scott was haphazard and careless in his approach. He took the attitude that a large and well-funded team could wing it and overcome problems as they occurred. He didn't value the knowledge of indigenous people who had lived in the Arctic for eons. He took ponies to the Antarctic as pack animals. He hated sled dogs. What is there for a pony to eat in the pack ice? Nothing. What can a dog eat? Seals. Penguins. In the worst case even another dog. The author also discusses the more general differences between Norwegians and the English as regards exploration and even behavior toward subordinates.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Story You Won't ForgetBy apavI watched the seven-part BBC series called "The Last Place on Earth" before reading this book. Huntford takes you from the beginning of polar exploration to the extraordinary feat of Roald Amundsen and his team and the aftermath. The Norwegians were first to reach the South Pole, but the British were hailed as heroes (having died in their attempt). Using primary sources, the author painstakingly builds a case for incredible incompetence of the British Scott and contrasts it to the profoundly capable Amundsen. This is an excellent account of remarkable men and the times in which they lived.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Two expeditions, so alike in their ostensible goals, so different in their approaches to the challenge. A MUST read for everyoneBy Sea CayTwo expeditions, so alike in their ostensible goals, so different in their approaches to the challenge. I have often recommended this book, and even given it as a present, to business colleagues. Indeed, I know of very few, if any, managerial texts that so vividly elucidate the pros and cons of the leadership styles and organizational cultures described herein. On the one hand, there is Captain Scott's expedition, the epitome of the well-financed corporate establishment undertaking. Change the names and the specific environment and this could be any of the many major corporations with whom I have worked and interacted. On the other hand, there is Captain Amundsen's enterprise, the epitome of the lean, entrepreneurial entity; focused on proven talent, world-class experience, and true excellence; not the appearance, not the show, not the facade of talent, but the rare real thing itself. Of course, the result was a foregone conclusion (which for those of you who do not yet know the story, I will not reveal here). This book is MUST read for everyone!

At the beginning of the twentieth century, the South Pole was the most coveted prize in the fiercely nationalistic modern age of exploration. In the brilliant dual biography, the award-winning writer Roland Huntford re-examines every detail of the great race to the South Pole between Britain's Robert Scott and Norway's Roald Amundsen. Scott, who dies along with four of his men only eleven miles from his next cache of supplies, became Britain's beloved failure, while Amundsen, who not only beat Scott to the Pole but returned alive, was largely forgotten. This account of their race is a gripping, highly readable history that captures the driving ambitions of the era and the complex, often deeply flawed men who were charged with carrying them out. **THE LAST PLACE ON EARTH** is the first of Huntford's masterly trilogy of polar biographies. It is also the only work on the subject in the English language based on the original Norwegian sources, to which Huntford returned to revise and update this edition.

.com On December 14, 1911, the classical age of polar exploration ended when Norway's Roald Amundsen conquered the South Pole. His competitor for the prize, Britain's Robert Scott, arrived one month later--but died on the return with four of his men only 11 miles from their next cache of supplies. But it was Scott, ironically, who became the legend, Britain's heroic failure, "a monument to sheer ambition and bull-headed persistence. His achievement was to perpetuate the romantic myth of the explorer as martyr, and ... to glorify suffering and self-sacrifice as ends in themselves." The world promptly forgot about Amundsen. Biographer Ronald Huntford's attempt to restore Amundsen to glory, first published in 1979 under the title *Scott and Amundsen*, has been thawed as part of the Modern Library Exploration series, captained by Jon Krakauer (of *Into Thin Air* fame). *The Last Place on Earth* is a complex and fascinating account of the race for this last great terrestrial goal, and it's pointedly geared toward demythologizing Scott. Though this was the age of the amateur explorer, Amundsen was a professional: he left little to chance, apprenticed with Eskimos, and obsessed over every detail. While Scott clung fast to the British rule of "No skis, no dogs," Amundsen understood that both were vital to survival, and they clearly won him the Pole. Amundsen in Huntford's view is the "last great Viking" and Scott his bungling opposite: "stupid ... recklessly incompetent," and irresponsible in the extreme--failings that cost him and his teammates their lives. Yet for all of Scott's real or exaggerated faults, he understood far better than Amundsen the power of a well-crafted sentence. Scott's diaries were recovered and widely published, and if the world insisted on lionizing Scott, it was partly because he told a better story. Huntford's bias aside, it's clear that both Scott and Amundsen were valiant and deeply flawed. "Scott ... had set

out to be an heroic example. Amundsen merely wanted to be first at the pole. Both had their prayers answered." -- Svenja Soldovieri
From Publishers Weekly
Huntford's chronicle of the rivalry between the United Kingdom's Robert Scott and Norway's Roald Amundsen to become the first explorer to reach the South Pole, poses a substantial challenge for adaptation into the audio format. The narrative presents events in a third-person expository fashion, offering precious few opportunities for dialogue among the real-life characters. American listeners may consider Tim Pigott-Smith's British accent distracting, while others might enjoy it as a relevant bit of flair. The story contains plenty of inherent drama, but the abridgment seems to veer off course in the concluding sections, as the long-term legacies of the two polar pioneers is rather rushed. A Modern Library paperback. (July) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "A remarkably vivid picture of the agonies and feuds, as well as joys, of polar exploration . . . a fascinating book."--The New York Times
"An extraordinarily rich reading experience."--Los Angeles Times