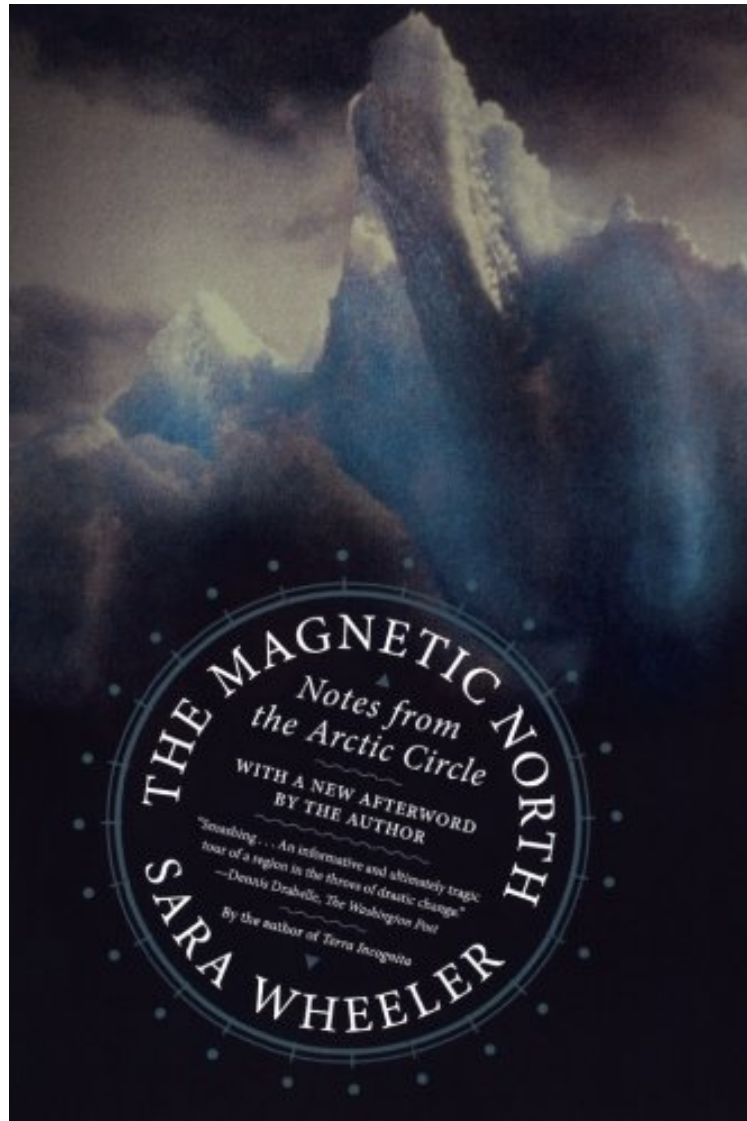


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## The Magnetic North: Notes from the Arctic Circle

Sara Wheeler

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**Sara Wheeler : The Magnetic North: Notes from the Arctic Circle** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Magnetic North: Notes from the Arctic Circle:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. True and magnetic north in a book.By Gregory FoxThis was an interesting whirlwind tour of Arctic geography, peoples, climate and history. As a former sometime Arctic flyer in Canada it was easy for me to relate to a few of the author's experiences. The North is a strange, beautiful, and also dangerous place if one does not know it. Sara Wheeler captures the wonder of the North and the fascination that

generations of explorers had with it, and reading this book reinforced my respect for the hardy, ingenuous, indigenous peoples who have made the North their home for thousands of years. I highly recommend this book to anyone who wants to capture the flavor of the high latitudes, and I look forward to her next book. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not my favorite Sara Wheeler By Mary Jefferson One to get full enjoyment of this book would have to strongly believe that climate change is caused by the people of the earth. It was very interesting to learn of the various Arctic countries. I had always been interested in the Sami people. By the time you are through with the book you will know much more. I have one bone to pick with the author. She writes of the crowded Alaska Marine Highway. I don't believe there are traffic jams on the Marine Highway! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Sara Wheeler is THE go-to writer about both Poles... By Michael Bruchas Love her works - I may never get to where she has traveled - but "vicarious thrills" for us arm-chair readers...

A Globe and Mail Best Books of the Year 2011 Title More than a decade ago, Sara Wheeler traveled to Antarctica to understand a continent nearly lost to myth and lore. In the widely acclaimed, bestselling *Terra Incognita*, she chronicled her quest to find a hidden history buried in Antarctica's extreme surroundings. Now, Wheeler journeys to the opposite pole to create a definitive picture of life on the fringes. In *The Magnetic North*, she takes full measure of the Arctic: at once the most pristine place on earth and the locus of global warming. Inspired by the spiraling shape of a reindeer-horn bangle, she travels counterclockwise around the North Pole through the territories belonging to Russia, the United States, Canada, Denmark, Norway, and Finland, marking the transformations of what once seemed an unchangeable landscape. As she witnesses the mounting pollution concentrated at the pole, Wheeler reckons with the illness of the whole organism of the earth. Smashing through the Arctic Ocean with the crew of a Russian icebreaker, shadowing the endless Trans-Alaska Pipeline with a tough Idaho-born outdoorswoman, herding reindeer with the Lapps, and visiting the haunting, deceptively peaceful lands of the Gulag, Wheeler brings the Arctic's many contradictions to life. *The Magnetic North* is an urgent, beautiful book, rich in dramatic description and vivid reporting. It is a singular, deeply personal portrait of a region growing daily in global importance.

From Booklist Wheeler thought her polar expedition days were over once she wrote about her Antarctica adventures in *Terra Incognita* (1998), but the Arctic lured her from her London home. As the best investigative travel writers do, Wheeler explores the past (most passionately the life of Norwegian explorer and Nobel laureate Fridtjof Nansen) and the present in a riveting, many-faceted chronicle. Wheeler describes her challenging Lapland sojourn (with her baby son) among endangered reindeer herders and reports grim facts about the Russian Arctic's radioactive contamination. In Arctic Alaska, she rides with a woman trucker on the only highway to the Arctic Ocean and explains the damage done to an Arctic Serengeti teeming with wildlife by the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. Wheeler visits scientists in Greenland, takes an Arctic cruise with her older son, and documents with verve and ire tragically miscarried cultural assimilation and racial marginalization, reckless development, and catastrophic pollution, which will all grow worse as the big melt accelerates and the Arctic becomes a hotly contested energy frontier. Mordantly funny, gritty, and bracing, Wheeler's revelatory dispatches from climate-change central are essential. --Donna Seaman *The Magnetic North* offers a fascinating tour of a disappearing world. Sara Wheeler is an eloquent and intrepid guide. Elizabeth Kolbert, author of *FIELD NOTES FROM A CATASTROPHE* wise, provoking and zestful chronicle, poetic, often tragic and always engaging. Wheeler, a prolific raconteur of distant places, has created the finest book on the Arctic since Hugh Brody's *The Other Side of Eden* . . . She has mapped a remarkable journey. Rory MacLean, *The Sunday Times* (London) *The Magnetic North* proved irresistibly attractive. I loved . . . *Terra Incognita*, and this was an equally coddling hoosh of personal travelogue, historical anecdote and speculative thinking--all the better because Wheeler began her series of Arctic travels, if not a climate change sceptic, then unconvinced about its anthropic cause, and ended up unable to deny the meltwater on the ground. Will Self, *New Statesman* A book that deserves to stand alongside *Arctic Dreams*, Barry Lopez's classic account of life above the tree line. Indeed, more than once I made the comparison in Wheeler's favour. She's funnier, and her writing, while brilliantly evocative, is never overblown . . . If you are lucky you might get to travel in the Arctic yourself; if you don't, this book is the next best thing. Erica Wagner, *The Times* (London) Fantastic . . . Readers are whisked away on an incredible, multifaceted tour of a region still unknown . . . This fact-filled narrative is nearly impossible to put down . . . By chronicling what the Arctic tells us about our past, Wheeler vividly reveals what it tells us about our collective future. Publishers Weekly (starred review) With wry humor and extensive research, Wheeler captures a swiftly transforming region with which we all have a symbiotic relationship . . . Wheeler's sense of place, science, self and story is exceptional. Holly Morris, *The New York Times* Book About the Author Sara Wheeler is the author of *Too Close to the Sun: The Audacious Life and Times of Denys Finch Hatton*, *Cherry: A Life of Apsley Cherry-Garrard*, *Evia: Travels on an Undiscovered Greek Island*, *Travels in a Thin Country: A Journey Through Chile*, and *Terra Incognita: Travels in Antarctica*. She lives in London.