

(Free pdf) Antarctica: Both Heaven and Hell

## Antarctica: Both Heaven and Hell

*Reinhold Messner*

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**Reinhold Messner : Antarctica: Both Heaven and Hell** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Antarctica: Both Heaven and Hell:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy DPAmerica53Great adventure story1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Uninspired Account Lacks PunchBy Gary LeeHaving read the classic accounts of Antarctic adventure by Shackleton, Scott, Mawson, and their biographers, Messner by comparison makes hiking

across the Antarctic continent sound like a cake walk. His main problem appears to have been his partner's lack of giddyup. The clunky translation doesn't help, but the translator obviously had a problematic text on her hands to start with. Messner's account of the hike itself is dull, his ruminations on *What It All Means* occasionally strike a chord but are mostly muddled mysticism. He often contradicts himself in the next sentence (perhaps the translation again), and seems to have been of a divided mind on just about everything--his partner, his support personnel, the sybaritic luxuries of the South Pole pleasure dome, the strengths and weaknesses of his predecessor explorers of the Heroic Age, and the journey itself and why he undertook it. But mainly what I found off-putting about this otherwise earnest, if flat, attempt to describe the experience are the frequent factual errors that cast doubt on the reliability of all the information in this fact-laden book. His description of Shackleton's Endurance expedition of 1914-16 is ludicrous. My ten-year old granddaughter can give a more accurate summary of the events of that legendary expedition than Messner's account--and this is the explorer in whose tracks he is purportedly following! Alfred Lansing's *ENDURANCE* remains the classic account of the astonishing Endurance expedition, and the book that got me hooked on delving into the incredible history of the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration. If tales of adventure in the most hostile wilderness on earth intrigue you, Messner's book would be a poor one to start with. It is little more than a footnote in the literature of polar exploration, although Messner and Fuchs' achievement was actually a milestone and deserved a far better rendering. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A great adventurer, but not a great writer. By Brian D. Rubendall. The story of Reinhold Messner's walk across Antarctica might have been more interesting had it been written by a professional author. Messner's first hand accounts, while interesting, do not make for especially good reading. However, there is a huge number of color photographs included that in and of themselves almost make the book worthwhile. Messner is perhaps the most accomplished extreme sportsman in the world. But he would do better letting someone else tell his fantastic stories.

Messner is arguably the greatest living mountaineer/explorer. Here he recounts the first crossing on foot, with Arved Fuchs, of Antarctica in 92 days ending in mid-February, 1990. Fine photos, many in color. Annotation copyright Book News, Inc. Portland, Or.

Language Notes  
Text: English (translation) Original Language: German  
About the Author  
In addition to his world-famous exploits in the Himalayas--including the first solo ascent of Mount Everest--Reinhold Messner "has crossed Antarctica and Greenland on foot. He is the author of more than thirty books, including *Everest, The Crystal Horizon, Free Spirit,*" and, most recently, *The Second Death of George Mallory*" (also available from St. Martin's Press). He lives in a castle in the Italian Alps.