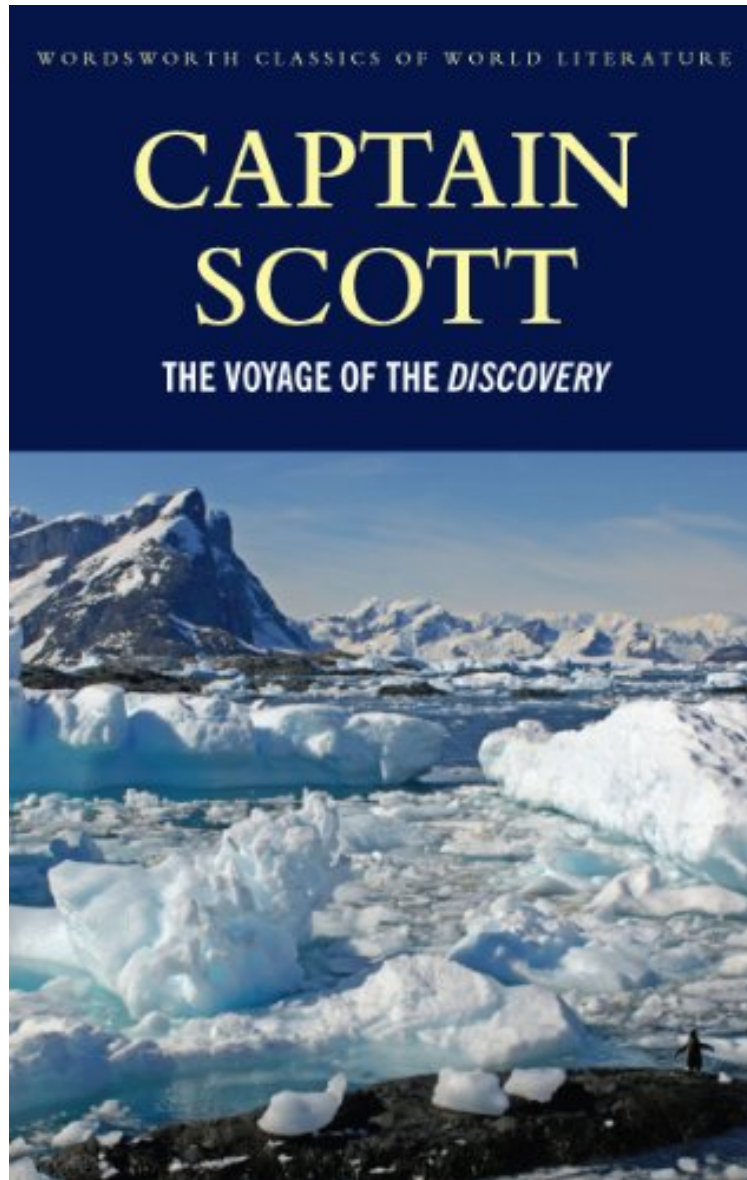


(Ebook free) Captain Scott: The Voyage of the Discovery (Wordsworth Classics of World Literature)

Captain Scott: The Voyage of the Discovery (Wordsworth Classics of World Literature)

R.F. Scott

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R.F. Scott : Captain Scott: The Voyage of the Discovery (Wordsworth Classics of World Literature) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Captain Scott: The Voyage of the Discovery (Wordsworth Classics of World Literature):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. RF Scott, a deeply flawed man given responsibilities way over his competence
By Marc Ranger
"The voyage of the Discovery" is the last of a long string of book about Antarctic exploration that I've read. In fact, I even visited the Discovery in Dundee, Scotland in 2007. So, here is what I did like about the book: first, if you are not an expert about Antarctica Exploration, this book will introduce to you many topics you need to know, in fact it's a book essentially for the non-initiated. The story is well written, Robert Falcon Scott being a tremendous writer. But that's about all. On the negative side, although the author gave praise to his team and colleagues, the book is centered on himself. Sadly, we don't get to know the personality of the many special individuals who shared his adventures. Almost nothing on Tom Crean, almost less than nothing on Ernest Joyce. You have to be real attentive to realize that Frank Wild was on the expedition. In fact, Scott, in relating his Southern sleging journey in 1902, don't find it important to introduce us to the 2 individuals who were with him, struggling for life in horrendous conditions, until midway through the trip! Nor did he explain why he choose them. You'll get the answer in ANY other polar book available on the Heroic Age, but you won't get the answer from the man who picked the team! I could tell you of many things Scott wrote that I find really hard to swallow, but I'll relate just two. First, on his Western Journey, in which Scott choose himself to lead when a geologist would have been way more efficient for gathering scientific records and data, Scott told the tale of a box full of important materials left in the field. After some sledging, they came back to pick the box up, but it's content lay all over the place, spreaded by the wind. Scott explains it this way: "The box was broken open, and the content was free to fly in any direction". Now, how can the box be broken open when Scott's party was the only party nowhere near the box? The only explanation is that someone carelessly left it open when they left, probably Scott himself. Never one to blame oneself, Scott wrote " the box was broken open"... This ridiculous tale can only throw a shadow of a doubt about everything else he wrote, especially "Scott's Journals", his Terra Nova Expedition diary. Secondly, Scott freely admit that, even if he was smaller than William Lashly or Taff Evans (who were with him on the Western Journey), he ate a full share of meals every day without remorse or regret. Naturally, Lashly and Evans, being bigger, needed more than Scott, but Scott ate as much as his companions. However, when on the South Polar trek in 1912, poor Taff Evans, way bigger than his 4 companions, was reduced by Scott of eating the same small share as the other four! The result? Evans broke down physically and mentally, and was the first to die an horrible death on the return journey. This, sadly, gives me the measure of the man. Scott was strong, he had stamina, he left us a tremendous pictorial recording of the Terra Nova Expedition, but he never, never, should have led any Antarctic expedition. Scott couldn't take counsel or recomandation (other than from Uncle Bill Wilson), he was too concern about the legacy he would left. Repeatedly, he drove his companions on the verge of starvation and exhaustion. He was a deeply flawed man given responsibilities way over his competence. The results are there to prove it.
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Abridged Version
By CustomerBe
advised this version and (its kindle counterpart) is not the full version. It's from a later edition and lacks the charts and tables of the full two volume edition. If you don't care whether or not you have those, its a decent resource on polar history that gives more insight into Robert Scott's background and motives. Just keep in mind it was edited by Clements Markham and others heavily before publication, even more so than Scott's journals of the Terra Nova expedition.

'When I received the script of "The Voyage of the Discovery" I was amazed. I had only to read a few pages to realise that it was literature, unique of its kind...Scott's mind was like wax to receive an impression and like marble to retain it'. So wrote Leonard Huxley, and he was not alone in his opinion. When this account of Scott's first Antarctic expedition appeared in 1905 the reviewers recognised it as a masterpiece and the first printing sold out immediately. Scott is best known for his doomed last expedition in 1912, but it was this earlier voyage that truly began the opening up of the Antarctic continent and laid the groundwork for the 'Heroic Age' of Antarctic exploration. The record of that voyage is a classic account by a remarkable explorer who was also one of the most talented writers in the field of polar exploration. Scott brings alive for the reader the brilliance of the aurora in the long winter nights, the hunger and danger of sledging trips, the isolation, and the joy of seeing what no human eye had previously seen.