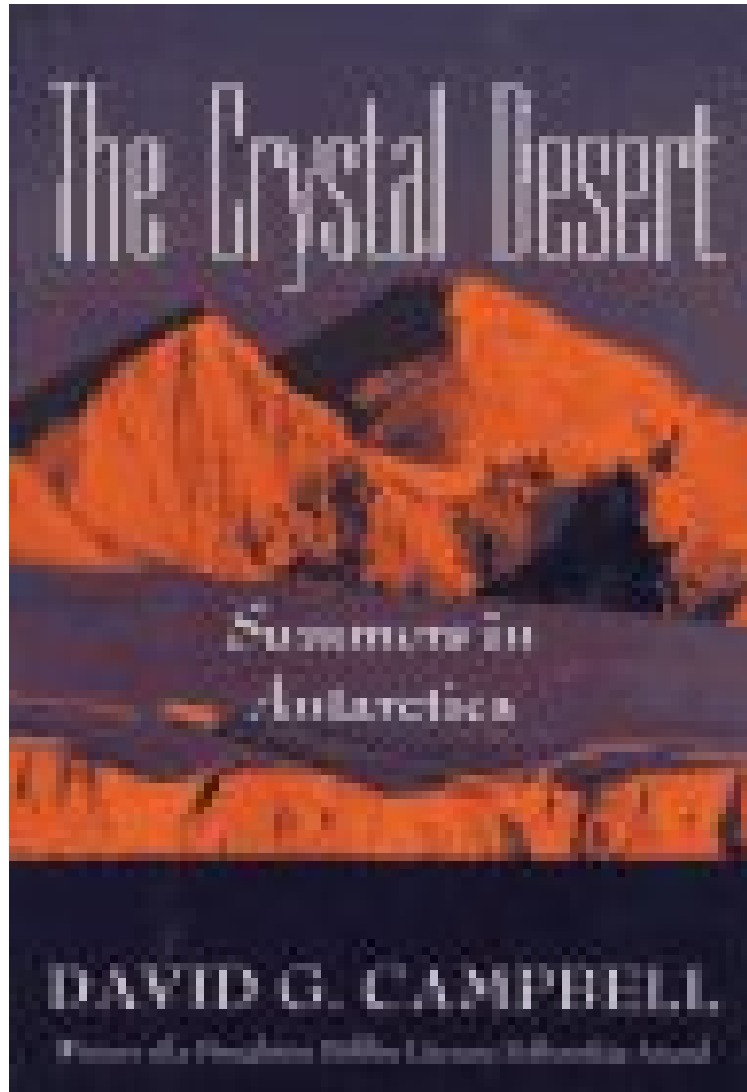


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The Crystal Desert: Summers in Antarctica

David G. Campbell

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David G. Campbell : The Crystal Desert: Summers in Antarctica before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Crystal Desert: Summers in Antarctica:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent preview for travel, fine writingBy Kipperd SnackThough I bought this as a preview to a trip to Antarctica, it's a beautiful read for anyone who cares about this no longer pristine area, it's wild life and the ice. Lovely writing that is neither romantic nor too strictly scientific, it covers the remarkable animals of land, sea and under sea comprehensively but not exhaustively. The author is a seasoned researcher, not primarily a nature writer. It also touches on the physical psychological conditions faced by researchers without being

about them. It prepared me for the beauty of the place and the not so lovely smell of penguin rookeries and has some excellent coverage (again, not exhaustive) of the history of exploration there. It's a book I'll take with me to reread as I travel. NB: it is out of date now in terms of policy and politics affecting Antarctica but that is not too difficult to research on line. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Terrific writer, a poet-scientist JUST READ IT !By J. J. David Campbell is, quite simply, a poet scientist. His writing is stunning, for ANY genre, but for a scientist, he's extraordinary. There are passages in this book that I read and re-read, just because the language is so amazing. His deep love for the natural world and the creatures/systems he studies shine through on every page, and his willingness to speak from his heart about what is happening to these wild places is not often found in serious scientific writing, which this most definitely is! If you want to be fascinated even while reading a sometimes dense explanation of how the ecosystems of the Antarctic work, this is your book. Never did I think I'd have any feelings toward the critters living in the benthic ooze -- but I'm here to tell you that because of his portrayal of their life cycles, I have new-found respect for the term "web of life" and the amazing abilities of even these tiniest of creatures. You will not be sorry you read this book. I have also read his book about the and was equally knocked over by it and highly recommend A Land of Ghosts. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not the only book to read on Antarctica, but worth the time By Terpsichore I liked this book although not as much as the others I read which were more contemporarily written. This was published in the 90s. The book finishes with a good account of history that is interestingly written and worth reading even if you know the general history. Perhaps most interesting is his telling of the conditions in which scientists have to work with a glimpse at the dangers and an enthusiastic accounting of the accomplishments and finds made as well as how those happened. This was third on my list of four to read and I am very glad I read it as so much of it is still applicable despite having been written quite a while ago.

The winner of the Houghton Mifflin Literary Fellowship Award surveys the history of the Antarctica Peninsula, from its exploration to its exploitation to the researches of contemporary scientists, and explores the evolution of its unusual animal life. 25,000 first printing.

.com In The Crystal Desert David Campbell weaves together travelogue gathered from his many visits to the wind-blasted continent of Antarctica, along with natural history, oceanography, and accounts of the tortured attempts of earlier exploratory missions "in an alien environment, beyond the edge of the habitable earth." He's a gifted writer with an especially fine hand at making his readers feel right at home in a place very few of us will ever get to see. Armchair travelers couldn't ask for a better book, no matter what the season. From Publishers Weekly With a poet's ear and a scientist's eye, biologist Campbell brings the Antarctic to vivid, teeming life in this eloquent, comprehensive natural and social history of the ice-clad continent below the Southern Ocean. Over the course of three austral summers in the 1980s, Campbell explored life "beyond the edge of the habitable earth," spending the last visit, in 1987, at a Brazilian research station--nicknamed Little Copacabana--on Admiralty Bay studying parasites in seals, fish and crustaceans. Punctuated with his personal responses (in the clarity of light after a sleet storm, he notes, "It is as if I have suddenly acquired the vision of an eagle"), early chapters detail local geology and botany, and chronicle the frenetic summer activity of penguins and seals; skuas, terns and albatrosses; plankton and krill. Accounts of the area's discovery and its exploitation in the seal- and whale-hunting expeditions that thrived 100 years ago are enlivened with reference to letters, diaries and other first-hand reports. Polished and passionate, with an immediate quality, this geographic portrait earned Campbell Houghton Mifflin's Literary Fellowship. Author tour. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal While Greater Antarctica has often been depicted as a vast, frozen wasteland, marine biologist and researcher Campbell writes that during "the short erotic summer along the ocean margins of the continent, Antarctica seemed to be a celebration of everything living." A rare nonfiction winner of the Houghton Mifflin Literary Fellowship Award, he recounts three summers he spent on the Antarctica Peninsula. Along with descriptions of seabirds, walrus, and plankton, Campbell ruminates on a number of topics, ranging from his research ("It is snow-hailing this morning when I make my first scuba dive into Admiralty Bay") to sealing and whaling, geology and paleontology. Campbell effectively delineates the Antarctic with words as Ron Naveen and others did with photography in Wild Ice (LJ 11/15/90). Crystal Desert will be compared to Barry Lopez's Arctic Dreams (LJ 3/1/86), but Campbell is a scientist who writes rather than a writer about science. Recommended for medium to large public and academic libraries.-- Jean E. Crampon, Hancock Biology Oceanography Lib . , Univ. of Southern California, Los Angeles Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.