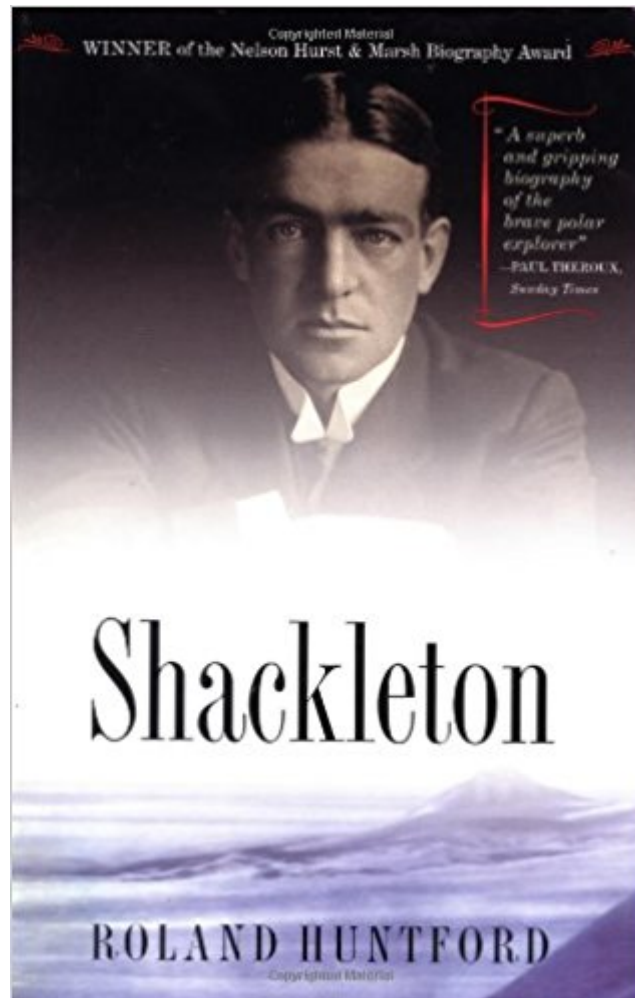




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Shackleton



Synopsis

The acclaimed biographer of Robert Falcon Scott masterfully chronicles the life of one of the last great Edwardian heroes, Ernest Shackleton, from his Anglo-Irish childhood through the race for the South Pole to his last expedition to the North Pole.

Book Information

Paperback: 800 pages

Publisher: Carroll & Graf (February 26, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0786705442

ISBN-13: 978-0786705443

Product Dimensions: 9.1 x 6.2 x 1.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (33 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,270,774 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #418 in [Books > History > Arctic & Antarctica](#) #2468 in [Books > History > World > Jewish > Holocaust](#) #2775 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Europe > Great Britain](#)

Customer Reviews

Biographer Roland Huntford has combined extensive research and superb story telling into an amazing tale of a most contradictory figure of Edwardian England. At the turn of the 20th century, Ernest Shackleton was one of the heroes of the British Empire. But, by the time of his death, in 1922, he was quickly on his way to becoming a forgotten man. What is most surprising is that he became a hero at all, because he accomplished nothing that he set out to do, and his life was a personal and financial failure. And most of it was his fault. His first Antarctic sojourn to the South Pole was with his later rival Captain Robert Scott. Scott and his fellow explorers had to carry/drag Shackleton much of the way home without them coming close to reaching their goal. His second assault on the South Pole he led himself, but was forced to abandon his quest with only 100 miles to go. Before Shackleton could make his next attempt, Scott reached the South Pole, but died before he could return. So, Shackleton's next venture to make a name for himself was to walk across Antarctica. Before he could begin his cross-continent trek, his ship, the Endurance, was caught in the ice and crushed. Shackleton and his band of hapless men fought bitter cold, starvation, treacherous seas, etc., as they struggled to survive. Yet, without having accomplished his goals he became a hero, because he was an adventurer who never gave up, and that met the criteria of that

time. However, the reason he was mostly unsuccessful was because he refused to accept the proven methods of ice exploration. He wouldn't consider using skis or dogs, ways that had previously been proven to be successful and most historians now believe would have made the difference between his success and failure.

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