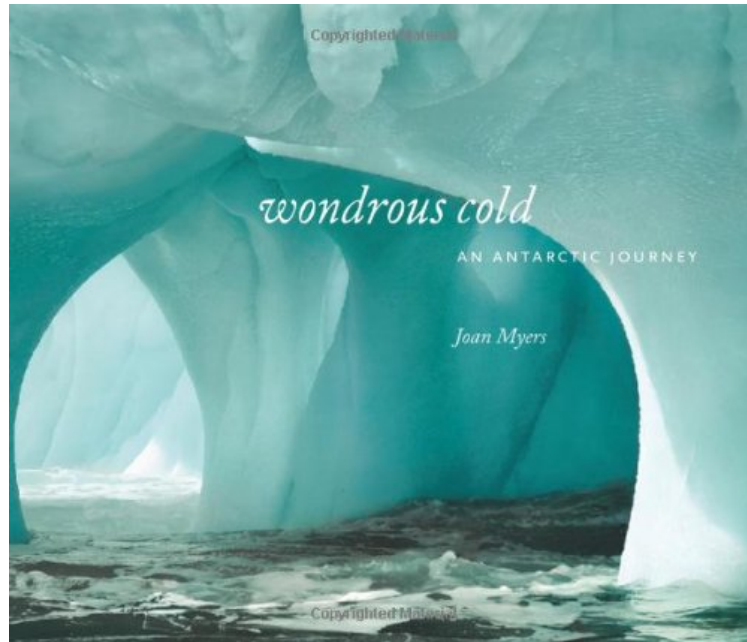


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## Wondrous Cold: An Antarctic Journey

Joan Myers

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**Joan Myers : Wondrous Cold: An Antarctic Journey** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wondrous Cold: An Antarctic Journey:

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For centuries Antarctica has captured the imagination of explorers, scientists, and armchair travelers. Its starkly beautiful landscape, extraordinary wildlife, and harsh climate only begin to suggest the wonders of the world's least understood continent.Intrigued by a part of the planet vividly described in the journals of explorers Robert Falcon Scott and Ernest Henry Shackleton, award-winning photographer Joan Myers set out to see for herself why people are drawn to such an inhospitable and uncompromising place. Over the course of several trips, Myers traversed the continent by foot, plane, helicopter, snowmobile, and Coast Guard icebreaker. Working in below-freezing

temperatures, braving blizzards and wind chills as low as -84F, she captured entrancing panoramas of Antarctica's beauty and vast scale, teeming penguin rookeries and docile seals, and the ghostly abandoned huts of early explorers. From her temporary base at McMurdo Station, Antarctica's primary research facility, she documented the daily lives of the scientists and support staff who work in this extreme environment. *Wondrous Cold* features more than 180 of Myers' captivating color and black-and-white photographs. Her engaging journal entries describe the physical challenges of taking photographs in a place where a tripod freezes solid in five minutes as well as the research, rhythms, and rituals of life on the Ice. New York Times writer Sandra Blakeslee contributes sidebars on the science conducted at the world's most remote frontier.

There is music in [Myers'] best prints: subtle, lovely, and nuanced. Michael More, Camera Arts  
Joan Myers' enchanting pictures offer up wonderful insights into the mysterious otherness of the frozen south. Sarah Wheeler, author of *Terra Incognita: Travels in Antarctica* and *Cherry: A Life of Apsley Cherry-Garrard*  
From the Publisher  
*Wondrous Cold: An Antarctic Journey* is the companion book to a new museum exhibition from the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). After premiering at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., in May 2006, the exhibition will be shown in 15 American cities through 2010. As a book and exhibition, *Wondrous Cold* takes its place among the panoply of varied and engaging topics that SITES presents. We are deeply grateful to Quark Expeditions, our generous sponsor, for sharing our vision of reaching Americans wherever they live, work, and play.  
From the Inside Flap  
For centuries Antarctica has captured the imagination of explorers, scientists, and armchair travelers. Its starkly beautiful landscape, extraordinary wildlife, and harsh climate only begin to suggest the wonders of the world's least understood continent. Intrigued by a part of the planet vividly described in the journals of explorers Robert Falcon Scott and Ernest Henry Shackleton, award-winning photographer Joan Myers set out to see for herself why people are drawn to such an inhospitable and uncompromising place. Over the course of several trips, including four months in the National Science Foundation's Antarctic Artists and Writers Program, Myers traversed the continent by foot, plane, helicopter, snowmobile, and Coast Guard icebreaker. Working in below-freezing temperatures, braving blizzards and wind chills as low as -84F, she captured entrancing panoramas of Antarctica's beauty and vast scale, teeming penguin rookeries and docile seals, and the ghostly abandoned huts of early explorers. From her temporary base at McMurdo Station, Antarctica's primary research facility, she visited research stations and field camps where astronomers, biologists, geologists, and other scientists seek to unravel the secrets of our planet and the origins of life itself. Myers also recorded the indispensable infrastructure of support staff, whose work makes the science possible. *Wondrous Cold* features more than 180 of Myers' captivating color and black-and-white photographs. Her engaging journal entries describe the physical challenges of taking photographs in a place where a tripod freezes solid in five minutes as well as the research, rhythms, and rituals of life on the Ice. New York Times writer Sandra Blakeslee contributes sidebars on the science conducted at the world's most remote frontier. Joan Myers has been taking photographs for more than 30 years, exploring the relationships between people and the land. Her highly acclaimed work has been the focus of five books, including *Salt Dreams: Land and Water in Low-Down California* and *Pie Town Woman*, three Smithsonian exhibitions, and numerous solo and group shows. Myers maintains her studio and residence near Santa Fe, New Mexico. Sandra Blakeslee is an award-winning science writer for the New York Times with a specialty in cognitive neuroscience. Co-author of six books, she is currently at work on a book about the new science of body maps. Jacket design by Andrea Thomas Photos Joan Myers Authors photo Melanie Conner 2003