

[PDF] Antarctica: An Intimate Portrait Of A Mysterious Continent

Gabrielle Walker - pdf download free book

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Description:

From Who travels to Antarctica, and why? Setting aside tourists who sail to the relatively accessible Antarctic Peninsula, Walker (*An Ocean of Air*, 2007) addresses her curiosity to the scientists and support personnel at stations various nations maintain on the ice-encased continent. During several separate journeys, she stayed at a half-dozen outposts operated by the U.S., the UK, Russia, France, Italy, and Argentina and learned the protocols of cold-weather survival, accompanied scientists on their fieldwork, and observed how people cope with the environmental extremes and awesome geographical isolation of Antarctica. Accenting particular individuals she met, Walker notes their motivations to come to Antarctica--usually professional for the scientists and often an interest in adventure for construction workers and cooks--while also paying attention to women who

challenged no-girls attitudes on staffing Antarctic stations. Together with the human-interest element, science propels Walker's narrative, which refracts scientists' explanations of their research into penguins, glaciology, geology, astronomy, and climate change. Interspersed with historical vignettes of Antarctic exploration, Walker's account affords a vibrant vicarious experience of traveling around the place on earth most like an alien planet. --Gilbert Taylor

About the Author GABRIELLE WALKER has a PhD in chemistry from Cambridge University and has taught at both Cambridge and Princeton universities. She is a consultant to New Scientist, contributes frequently to BBC Radio, and writes for many newspapers and magazines. She is also the author of four books, including *An Ocean of Air* and *Antarctica*. She lives in London.

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