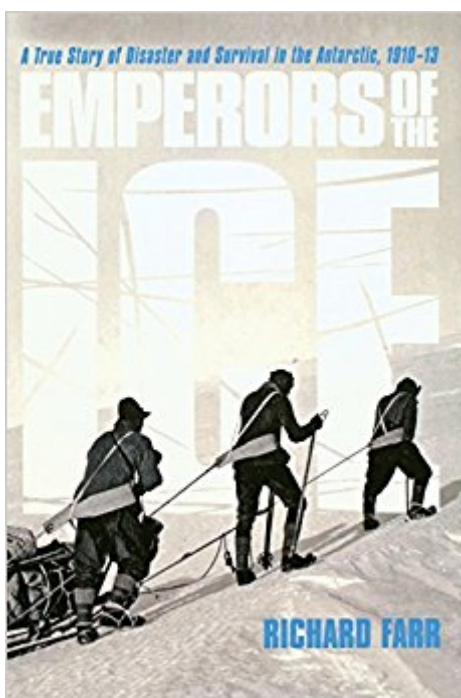


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# Emperors Of The Ice: A True Story Of Disaster And Survival In The Antarctic, 1910-13



## Synopsis

Apsley George Benet Cherry-Garrard has always dreamt of becoming an explorer. So in the spring of 1910, when Captain Robert Falcon Scott offers young "Cherry" the position of Assistant Zoologist aboard the Terra Nova, Cherry considers himself the luckiest man alive. Cherry's luck, however, will soon change. Far off in the icy unknown of Antarctica, where temperatures plummet below  $-77^{\circ}\text{F}$ , exploration is synonymous with a struggle for life. Frostbite, scurvy, hidden ice chasms, and packs of hungry killer whales are very real dangers. But even these perils don't prepare Cherry for the expedition he and two other crew members embark upon to collect the eggs of Emperor penguins. Along the way, he will face the elements head-on, risking life and limb in the name of science. Rife with captivating details of survival in an icy wilderness, and illustrated with dozens of photographs from the actual journey, this reimagining of the famous 1910 expedition to the South Pole, told in Cherry's voice, is an unforgettable tale of courage and camaraderie.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

## Customer Reviews

Grade 7-10 • A recounting of the fatal Antarctic exploration led by Englishman Robert Falcon Scott. The story is told from the point of view of journeyman Apsley Cherry-Garrard and is based on his experiences as recorded in *The Worst Journey in the World*. The author incorporates numerous primary sources, including diaries, letters, and black-and-white

reproductions and archival photographs that aid in capturing Garrard's mindset and that of the other members of the expedition. The goal of the trip was to find the South Pole, with an offshoot expedition to collect samples of the fabled Emperor penguin's eggs. Though dialogue was obviously re-created, and some assumptions are made regarding the thoughts and feelings of crew members, Farr's writing is engrossing and his accounts of the hardships and near-death experiences the explorers faced are harrowing. The accompanying maps, photographs, and drawings complement the text, though some of them break it up at odd intervals. This title will appeal to readers looking for an adventure story and to history buffs. — Kelly McGorray, Glenbard South High School Library, Glen Ellyn, IL Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. This review refers to the Hardcover edition

“After the storm, we enjoyed several days in which the weather was merely horrible.” Farr writes in the voice of Apsley Cherry-Garrard, a participant in Robert Scott's ill-fated second Antarctic expedition, which he casts as an inspiring tale of men battling overwhelmingly brutal elements with experimental gear, high spirits, and indomitable courage. The expedition was actually a scientific one, with the push to the South Pole as much a public relations gambit as a main purpose. Cherry, as he was known, self-effacingly describes his own role as part of a three-man side trip to collect penguin eggs—a trip that, like so many early ventures to the Antarctic, became a desperate struggle just to survive. Based on Cherry's own memoirs and extensive research, this deceptively light-toned account makes compelling reading and is well supplied with contemporary photos, maps, an annotated source list, and other helpful extras. Despite its fictive voice, it makes an authoritative replacement for older titles on the expedition, meriting a place next to Bredeson's *After the Last Dog Died* (2003), Armstrong's *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World* (1998), and other Antarctic annals. Grades 6-9. —John Peters This review refers to the Hardcover edition

I really enjoyed this book more than I expected to, but I was excited to learn about the geography of the antarctic area as described by Cherry. Although I believe Scott made many mistakes in planning and executing this trip, the two most egregious to me are: paying money for sledges versus dogs, when there wasn't that much information on sledges, especially used in extreme temperatures; and allowing his friend, Bill, take a scientific excursion into extremely dangerous territory to get samples of embryos. On the excursion to seek eggs, men experienced unnecessary danger, exhaustion, mental strain and injuries. Had the team stayed intact, even when the sledges failed, the men could

have taken turns with the manual labor, or banded together to make shorter work of it - exposing the entire team to less of the elements. Regarding the purchase and use of sledges; I am sure the idea of "vehicles" capable of hauling large amounts of supplies, equipment, etc. sounded like too good to pass up; but pass them up he should have. I believe the two mistakes I consider Scott made, cost him the lives of good men, himself not withstanding. All in all, a very good read, with insight as to the decision making of a leader under very difficult circumstances, and the camaraderie that exists between teammates also under these circumstances.

I found this to be educational and entertaining reading which is something I love doing. This has made my old body appreciate the warmth that I have to live with. In the year 2000 I had stage 3 cancer and lived in Southern California, I did not get warm for two years after the chemotherapy. I slept in sweats and under a down comforter along with a pile of blankets on top, my teeth still chartered. Reading this book makes me feel as if maybe I was warm. You were able to take me with Scott's expedition. There is so much to see and live through in this world, so many never get there, except in books that we get to read. Thank you.

Great a unabridged audio book. You get a quasi-autobiography of Scott's polar expedition. Extremely entertaining and well told, the story is both inspirational and tragic. If you have interest in the topic, it is a must listen.

I have read many books on the exploration of the Arctic & Antarctica. This one is very well written & the author made you "know" the people so well & so soon. I saw that this is his first book & he has something to be very proud of. Also Mr. Farr should write more books that appeal to young people & adults alike. What an excellent book!

Thanks for writing this gem. It's a great introduction to historical adventure and the psyche of another time (and I fervently hope still exists today). Even though I knew the ending, I was still on the edge of my seat and fighting tears at certain points.

Very gripping account of a less we'll known aspect of Scott's Antarctic expedition. Found this after reading the first part of Farr's "Babel Trilogy" and was not disappointed.

I purchased this book for my 13 year old son. He hasn't had a chance to read it yet. My husband

finished it first, followed by me. It is a fascinating true adventure that reads like a novel. Don't start reading late at night if you want to get any sleep. This is a super book for anyone interested in history, exploration, adventure, or for anybody who enjoys a well written book on any subject. (That would be me.)

An in depth look into an a perilous expedition. Well written and researched. Richard Farr obviously loves his work. More, please.

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