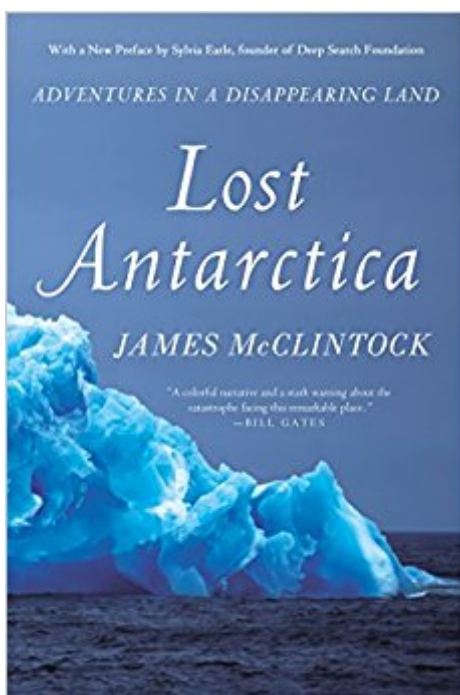


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Lost Antarctica: Adventures In A Disappearing Land (MacSci)



Synopsis

Few of us will ever get to Antarctica. The bitter cold and three months a year without sunlight makes the sixth continent virtually uninhabitable for humans. Yet marine biologist James B. McClintock has spent three decades studying the frozen land in order to understand better the world that lies beneath it. In this luminous and closely observed account, one of the world's leading experts on Antarctica introduces the reader to this fascinating world—the extraordinary wildlife that persists despite the harsh conditions and the way each of the pieces fit into the puzzle of the intricate environment: from single-celled organisms to baleen whales, with leopard seals, penguins, 50-foot algae, sea spiders, coral, and multicolored sea stars, in between. Now, as temperatures rise, the fragile ecosystem is under attack. Adèle penguins that have successfully nested on Antarctic islands for several hundred years have been nearly wiped out. King crabs that used to populate the deep seafloor are moving into shallower waters, disturbing the set order of life there. *Lost Antarctica* is an appeal to understand and appreciate the wondrous place at the bottom of the world that we are on the brink of losing.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“McClintock offers a vivid portrait.” —The Washington Post
A veteran of the extreme south, McClintock shares the otherworldly wonders unveiled by decades of research. The book is packed with joys. Nature—a close look at the life of a scientist in a strange wilderness for months at a time, and a revelatory exploration of the region's unique wildlife | McClintock is a determined,

evenhanded guide. • • Smithsonian magazine • Writing with real passion about this "desolate but beautiful" place, almost twice the size of Australia, McClintock describes the dangers of working there, but also the wonder. • • The Guardian • A richly informative memoir from a veteran scientist who has devoted his career to Antarctica . . . Entertaining natural history. • • Kirkus Reviews • An entertaining account. • • The Austin-American Statesman • With rare clarity, humor, high adventure and deep, sobering insight, gifted scientist-explorer-writer James McClintock shares decades of experience on, around and under the wildest ocean on Earth. Every person alive should read- and heed- this riveting account of the swift changes now sweeping Antarctica • " and the world. If Indiana Jones were a marine biologist, he would aspire to be James McClintock. • • Sylvia Earle, National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence and founder of Deep Search • James B. McClintock's *Lost Antarctica* is a disturbing distress signal about the traumas and strains of the South Pole in the Age of Global Warming. McClintock is a marvelous writer with a keen eye for the natural world. His knowledge of polar science is exemplary. Highly recommended! • • Douglas Brinkley author of *The Quiet World* and *The Wilderness Warrior* • *Lost Antarctica* is a very original, readable, and authoritative introduction to a little known part of Earth's natural environment, and has increasing threat to its existence. • • Edward O. Wilson • *Lost Antarctica* is an intimate tour of a rapidly changing continent, led by one of the scientists who knows it best. James McClintock has written an important and timely book. • • Elizabeth Kolbert • James McClintock shares his deep love of Antarctica vividly in this colorful narrative. He issues a stark warning about the catastrophe facing this remarkable place - and our globe - from the twin dangers of climate change and ocean acidification. *Lost Antarctica* reminds us of the urgency of finding new energy systems that do not use our atmosphere or oceans as a waste dump. • • Bill Gates • Jim McClintock takes us with him on an extraordinary field trip to Antarctica, the frigid part of the Garden of Eden. With superb descriptions of the ice and biosphere of the great white continent, he carefully documents how climate change is having a big impact on the penguins, seals and other sea creatures that inhabit the polar waters. • • Henry Pollack, Ph.D., author of *A World without Ice* • Jim McClintock is a great scientist and explorer/naturalist in the tradition of Darwin and Wilson. The stories he tells are fascinating in their scientific detail and recollections, and cautionary in their implications. • • Hugh Ducklow, PhD. Director of the Ecosystems Center at the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) at Woods Hole, Massachusetts

James B. McClintock is one of the world's foremost experts on Antarctica, and currently the Endowed University Professor of Polar and Marine Biology at the University of Alabama at

Birmingham. McClintock has appeared on local, national, and international public radio, CNN news, and the Weather Channel. He has been quoted in National Geographic, Discover Magazine, The Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune, The Wall Street Journal, and others. Each year he leads a philanthropic cruise to the Antarctic Peninsula, sponsored by Abercrombie and Kent. McClintock Point, a body of land on the north side of the entrance of Explorer's Cove on the Scott Coast of the Ross Sea, Antarctica, was named in honor of his research.

I read this book as one of several in preparation for my trip to Antarctica. McClintock is a respected scientist who has been doing research in Antarctica for a long time now and is a professor in Alabama. His writing style is engaging and encourages the reader to continue knowing he'll be laying wonders open on the coming pages. While everything he writes is important you don't have to be a scientist to understand it. I knew there was far more to the place than I could imagine but the author opened a world of marine biology I didn't expect. The book is very readable, you won't want to put it down, and the information between the covers is important. To cement the ideas and facts I wrote a blog thinking it would take up less space in my suitcase and suspecting an unmarked copy will be on the ship. As a result of reading this, my second incredible and fascinating science book on Antarctica, I am even more eager to get to the airport to start my trip and see the place for myself. The last part of the book deals with climate change, what it bodes for the future and it is both alarming and hopeful. Read it: you'll be very glad you did.

This book is a meticulously documented account of a scientist's first hand studies and observations over many years of research in Antarctica. It is beautifully written with a slightly poetic touch. The descriptions of the land and one man's personal but often adventuresome encounters with the wildlife ranging from the tiniest occupants of the sea to the mighty whale, is packed with information. He includes the work of his fellow researchers with pride and detail. This book is also filled with "heart" as the author is personally moved by both his work and his surroundings. I'm one of the lucky people who has cruised to the Antarctic, marveled at its other worldly beauty and began to realize the fearful importance of what is happening there. James McClintock's book has provided the depth for a far better understanding of what I saw as scenery and experienced as high adventure. I find it a book that ALL people should pay attention to, and hope that governments may soon do the same. I highly recommend it. Written by Muriel G. for .com

One does not need a degree in biology nor theology to read 'Lost Antarctica', which is both an easy

and challenging read. Easy, in that McClintock shares a lot of scientific information in very understandable and intelligent language, with a good balance of personal stories and insight. His book also challenges us to be better stewards of the gift of creation. He invites us to connect the dots between what has been given us and our responsibility to 'till and keep it'. Using scientific data and experience he paints some sad, realistic possibilities, if we do not make some changes. He also uses data where humans have made changes, to offer hope as well. McClintock does a wonderful job of 'demystifying' climate change, temperature change and the seventh continent, Antarctica. After reading 'Lost Antarctica', may it no longer be lost to any of us.

Biologist, James McClintock provides a fascinating picture of life beneath the ice in Antarctica. You'll become acquainted with invertebrates, plankton, corals and plants and come to appreciate mechanisms, including chemical weapons, that they use to survive in such a harsh environment. However, melting ice, ocean acidification, rising temperatures and mounting snowfall are threatening their numbers. Changes in this fragile ecosystem are taking a toll on many species which impacts the entire food chain that supports larger forms of life such as seals and penguins and even whales. Adelie penguins are having a particularly hard time due to increased snowfall encasing their nests and having to travel farther to find food. The disturbing changes so carefully documented by McClintock are a wake up call regarding the twin threats of ocean acidification and climate change that are occurring worldwide. The author is a facile writer and keeps the reader engaged without overwhelming her with scientific data. This book is a must read! Diane Schetky

Dr. James McClintock, a polar marine biologist from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, has led 14 expeditions to Antarctica over the past 30 years. He has witnessed the impact of climate change firsthand. In this wonderful narrative of his adventures on the ice, McClintock weaves in the changes he has seen and offers a warning of what will come with continued warming. McClintock isn't preachy, but maintains the objective perspective of a scientist watching the continent he loves transform before his eyes. If a reader is not convinced that climate change is real, he will be after reading "Lost Antarctica."

This is a tremendous book that explains in clear, straight forward terms the effects of global warming as evidenced by changes in Antarctica - changes in the acidity of the Antarctic seas, the appearance (and disappearance) of species that for centuries have inhabited other parts of the sea floor or the surface of the Antarctic continent but are moving due to climate change: warming

oceans, melting glaciers & icecaps, etc. McClintock succinctly makes the case that Antarctica is the canary in the mine shaft, telling all we need to know to confirm that the world's climate is indeed changing & we are in for an altered world in the next century (and beyond).

Most of the public concern regarding the effect of climate change on the poles has been focussed on the Arctic. This book makes a strong case for concern that the changes in the Antarctic are just as profound, even if not as well known as the loss of Arctic summer sea ice and the melting of the permafrost. Without any feeling of 'alarmism', the author details the negative effects of the warming ocean on the biosphere, effects that should get wider coverage. A must read to highlight the fact that climate change is truly global in nature.

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