



Antarctic Journal: Four Months at the Bottom of the World

By Jennifer Owings Dewey

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It is the windiest, coldest, most forbidding region on earth, and I am heading straight for it.

Sketchbook in hand, an artist leaves home to spend four months in Antarctica. She hikes up glaciers, camps on deserted islands, and sees mirages of castles in the air. She sails past icebergs and humpback whales. And she fills her sketchbook with drawings of penguin chicks huddled in their nests and seals basking in the sun. Jennifer Dewey's sketches, photographs, journal entries, and letters home let you see the last great wilderness on earth through the eyes of an artist at work.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Imagine if you were given a grant by the National Science Foundation to spend four months in Antarctica to sketch, take pictures, and write home to friends and family. *Antarctic Journal* is the record of Jennifer Owings Dewey's trek to the bottom of the world: "a planet as remote as the moon in its own way," she writes. Antarctica, home to 100 million penguins, has ice up to three miles thick, covering 98 percent of the land. The author writes her account of this icy-cold adventure at Palmer Station in an accessible journal, sprinkled with letters home and colored-pencil sketches and photographs of various landscapes and Arctic creatures. Discussions of penguin behavior are interrupted by the history of Gondwanaland and continental drift, while snippets about trying to cook krill (the tiny phytoplankton that blue whales eat) in garlic and butter add a comic and personal touch to her adventure. Descriptions of the "green flash" that happens just before sunset, red tide, and a mirage effect called the "fata morgana" (named after the fairy Morgan who built castles in the air) are sure to intrigue and inspire young explorers. This is a charming, personable introduction to a forbidding, fascinating continent. (Ages 8 to 12) --*Karin Snelson*

From School Library Journal

Grade 3-6-Readers get a glimpse of an artist's four-month stay in Antarctica through her sketches and photos, journal entries, and letters home. Her personal experiences (having Ad?lie penguins examine her typewriter, falling into a crevasse on a glacier) are interspersed with facts about the history, landforms, weather, and life of Antarctica. The combination of softly colored sketches and photos is effective, although the photos are small and some lack crispness. A great deal of fascinating information is included in the text, which flows easily from fact bites to narrative. The book is similar to Sophie Webb's *My Season with Penguins: An Antarctic Journal* (Houghton, 2000). Both artists spent one season in Antarctica learning, sketching, and writing. Both mix fact with personal experience. Because Webb is also a scientist and her interest is penguins, her book has a tighter focus. Dewey's title gives more general information about the continent. (Webb's book is assigned to the 500s; Dewey's to the 900s.) Neither title has an index, and, although both are short enough for researchers to skim, they are both meant to be read cover to cover. Libraries already owning Webb's book will want to consider *Antarctic Journal* as well because of its broader scope. Fans of Antarctica will want to read both.

Ellen Heath, Orchard School, Ridgewood, NJ

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 4-6. Thanks to a grant from the National Science Foundation, this award-winning children's writer and illustrator spent four months at Palmer Station on Anvers Island in Antarctica. Her warm, thoughtful travel diary chronicles not only her observations in text and art but also her fears and feelings as she explores the strange frosty environment where the sun never sets. One small thing detracts from this well-written, eye-opening book: a number of passages are addressed to T or B or S, but there's no information about who these people are. Despite the tiny unsolved mystery, this is a remarkable read. *Kelly Halls*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Leo Osborne:

As people who live in the modest era should be change about what going on or facts even knowledge to make these individuals keep up with the era which can be always change and advance. Some of you maybe may update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice in your case but the problems coming to you is you don't know which one you should start with. This Antarctic Journal: Four Months at the Bottom of the World is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and need in this era.

Lois Jennings:

Information is provisions for people to get better life, information these days can get by anyone on everywhere. The information can be a know-how or any news even a concern. What people must be consider if those information which is in the former life are challenging be find than now's taking seriously which one is suitable to believe or which one typically the resource are convinced. If you have the unstable resource then you get it as your main information there will be huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen inside you if you take Antarctic Journal: Four Months at the Bottom of the World as the daily resource information.

Richard Eby:

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Shirley Bishop:

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