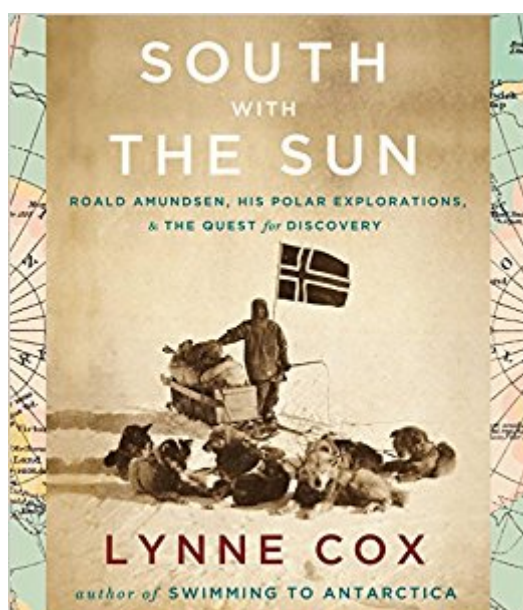


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# South With The Sun: Roald Amundsen, His Polar Explorations, And The Quest For Discovery



## Synopsis

A powerfully built man more than six feet tall, Amundsen's career of adventure began at the age of fifteen (he was born in Norway in 1872 to a family of merchant sea captains and rich ship owners); twenty-five years later he was the first man to reach both the North and South Poles. Lynne Cox, adventurer and swimmer, author of *Swimming to Antarctica* (Sports Illustrated) and *Grayson* (wondrous, and unforgettable) "Carl Hiaasen), gives us in *South with the Sun* a full-scale account of the explorer's life and expeditions. We see Amundsen, in 1903-06, the first to travel the Northwest Passage between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, in his small ship *Gjøa*, a seventy-foot refitted former herring boat powered by sails and a thirteen-horsepower engine, making his way through the entire length of the treacherous ice bound route, between the northern Canadian mainland and Canada's Arctic islands, from Greenland across Baffin Bay, between the Canadian islands, across the top of Alaska into the Bering Strait. The dangerous journey took three years to complete, as Amundsen, his crew, and six sled dogs waited while the frozen sea around them thawed sufficiently to allow for navigation. We see his journey toward the North Pole in Fridtjof Nansen's famous *Fram*, until word reached his expedition party of Robert Peary's successful arrival at the North Pole. Amundsen then set out on a secret expedition to the Antarctic, and we follow him through his heroic capture of the South Pole. Cox makes clear why Amundsen succeeded in his quests where other adventurer-explorers failed, and how his methodical preparation and willingness to take calculated risks revealed both the spirit of the man and the way to complete one triumphant journey after another. Cox also describes reading about Amundsen as a young girl and how his exploits inspired

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## Customer Reviews

Knopf hardcover, 2011, Previous ISBN 978-0-307-59340-5 --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

â œThis book is as autobiographical as it is biographical . . . a book that juxtaposes two adventurers, one with her own challenges still unfolding and the other with his position fixed in history . . . a book worthy of the centenary celebration of Amundsenâ™s trek to the South Pole.â •â ”San Francisco Chronicle Today the North and South Poles are home to research stations and film crews, but just a century ago they were forbidding lands seldom seen by human eyes. Those who journeyed there were the last true explorers, and one of the most successful ever was Roald Amundsen. Known as â œthe last of the Vikings,â • the Norwegian-born Amundsen began his career of adventure at age fifteen and by forty had become the first man to successfully navigate the Northwest Passage, and to reach both the North and South Poles. As a girl, Lynne Cox read of Amundsenâ™s exploits, which inspired her to follow her own adventurous dreams of open-water swimming. Here, she gives an account of Amundsenâ™s life and expeditions while detailing her own experiences swimming (without a wetsuit) in the same polar regions he first explored. At once a biography, history, and memoir, *South with the Sun* holds something for any lover of adventure.â œNot to miss . . . It's fascinating to read about the Norwegian hardman through the eyes of Cox.â •â ”Outside[AU photo] LYNNE COX has set records all over the world for open-water swimming. She is the author of *Swimming to Antarctica* and *Grayson* and lives in Los Alamitos, California. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I loved this book. I have always been curious about what propels long distance swimmers, the seeming monotony of the water, the suffering, etc. To put it together in a book about the polar explorer Ronald Amundsen was perfect as those polar explorers certainly had the same mindset. Is it great lit-er-a-ture (spoken in a British accent)? No, very few books are. But it is totally fascinating and brings us to places we otherwise would never experience - like swimming with colorful jellyfish in water so cold that it would kill most of us mere mortals in a few minutes.

Lynne Cox weaves together her intellectual, physical and adventurous challenges in this book. It really added to my appreciation of this woman who I treasure as a model for living your passion!

Well researched and written, this is a fascinating account of the collision of chance encounters and a passion to follow in the steps of polar explorers by a phenomenal athlete who is able to tie all these experiences and diverse people together via her sport: distance swimming in some really cold places! And if you have not read *Swimming to Antarctica*, check that one out too for a winning combination.

the book arrived and was in very good condition as stated. i looked elsewhere and the price for the product was unbeatable.

Lynn Cox writes a history of exploration at both poles that includes the pioneers with ships up to the current research and exploration by air. She weaves in her swimming adventures in several of the places that explorers' paths took. Well done.

I've read about expeditions to the North and South Poles, but I've never been touched emotionally by a story of exploration as I've been touched by this one. Lynne Cox, whom we met and grew to adore in *Swimming to Antarctica*, takes us on an adventure. By sharing her own life and the stories of Amundsen, Nansen, Byrd and others that she researches, she encourages us to take our own risks, set our own high goals, discipline ourselves and reach out to others to help us meet those goals. Reading this book is a great way to celebrate Amundsen's reaching the South Pole one hundred years ago--on December 14th, 1911!

I always wished I could go there and experience the environment myself, but of course with a bit more contemporary equipment

If you want a book about Amundsen or polar exploration, don't bother with this one. It is about the author, a respected athlete who swims in very cold water and has a lot of initiative but doesn't show much writing skill here.

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