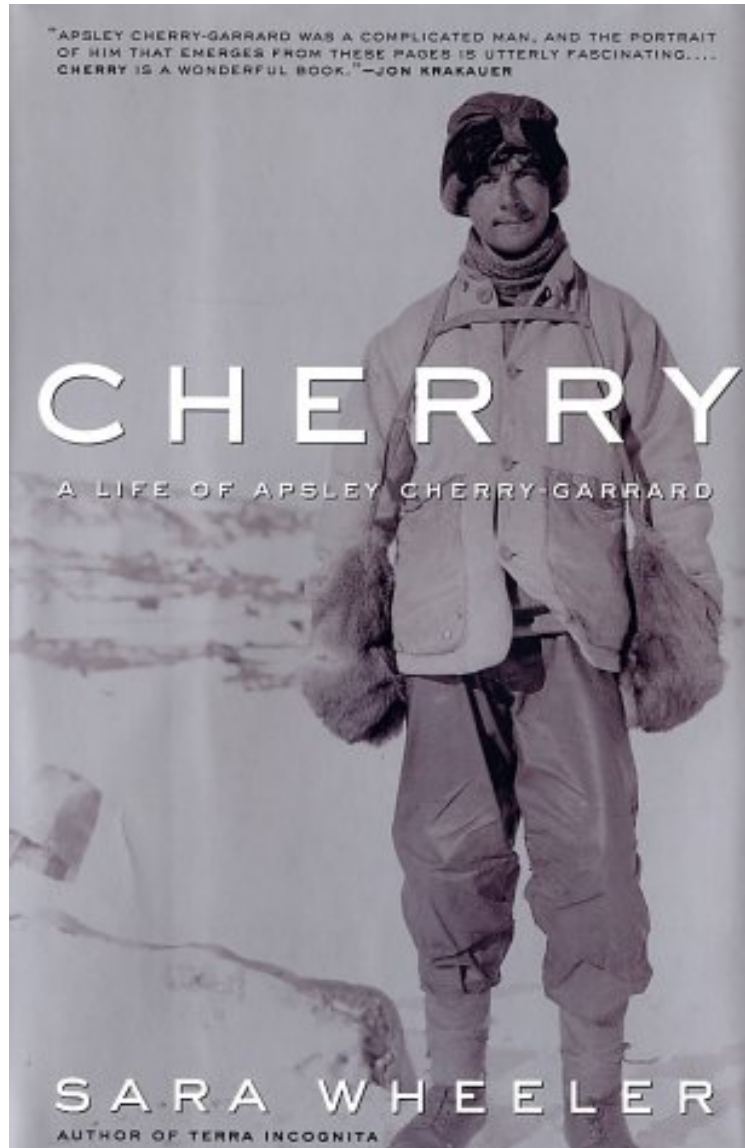


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## Cherry: A Life of Apsley Cherry-Garrard

*Sara Wheeler*

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**Sara Wheeler : Cherry: A Life of Apsley Cherry-Garrard** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cherry: A Life of Apsley Cherry-Garrard:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must read for anyone interested in the AntarcticBy KtanApsley Cherry-Garrard wrote "The Worst Journey in the World." This is the classic book of Antarctic exploration and a must read for anyone interested in that subject. Sara Wheeler brought to life the story of Apsley Cherry-Garrard from his boyhood as a spoiled well to do son of a retired British General who went to the best schools, studied the classics, and

through a huge donation to the effort got himself assigned to Robert F. Scott's Antarctic expedition to be the first to reach the South Pole. From a young 24 year old with no real skills Garrard managed to become one of the most valuable members of Scott's expedition. A fascinating story. 12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Worth the wait. By FrancesMI had heard some time ago that Wheeler was working on a biography of 'Cherry'. I was particularly interested because her 'Terra Incognita' is one of my favorite books about Antarctica. She is an excellent writer and did a good job there of inter-weaving her own experiences with some history of exploration in the area. Once again, I'm impressed with her writing ability. And, she does an excellent job giving us some insight into this conflicted, interesting man. I found the section on the publicity following their return to New Zealand fascinating. I knew that Cherry-Garrard castigated himself, for the rest of his life, about not having gone against orders by proceeding farther than One Ton Depot to look for the returning party. But, I had no idea how negative some of the comments/publicity were at that time. Those accounts gave me a better insight into how difficult it would have been not to be self-critical--even for someone who did not have those tendencies--as Cherry-Garrard certainly did. Wheeler also includes comments from others' diaries that I had not heard before. It is impossible to sort out everything now, so long after actual events, but there is a lot of 'grist' for the mill here. The accounts about Teddy Evans are interesting--more negative than I expected. I respect Wheeler's abilities as a researcher but I do keep in mind that no account can be entirely accurate now, looking back through the lens of time. And, on a wonderful trip to the Peninsula a few years ago, I heard an 'expert' sniff that Wheeler was not entirely up to snuff in terms of accuracy. This comment doesn't make me extremely doubtful about her findings, however, since she certainly convinces me when I take the 'whole' of her books. If you're interested in Antarctic exploration, Scott's last trip, or a piercing account of a gentleman of his time, get the book--you won't be disappointed. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent read whether you are into arctic stories or not. By angeldog Excellent read whether you are into arctic stories or not. Lots of details about the expeditions that were new to me. And many more about his later personal life.

The first authorized biography of the antarctic explorer who gave us the greatest classic of polar literature. In February 1912, Apsley Cherry-Garrard drove a team of dogs 150 miles to a desolate outpost on Antarctica's rough ice shelf to meet Robert Falcon Scott and his men, who were expected to return victorious any day from their epic race to the South Pole. Winter was closing in, and Cherry was handicapped by brutal temperatures and diminishing light. Less than two weeks later, three dying men pitched their tent for the last time just twelve miles to the south. One was Captain Scott, the leader of the expedition. The other two, Birdie Bowers and Bill Wilson, were the closest friends Cherry had ever had. Ten months later, once the polar winter had released them from captivity, Cherry and his search party found the tent, piled with snow and pinned to the ice by his friends' corpses. It was a tragedy that would reverberate around the world and inspire Cherry to write his masterpiece, *The Worst Journey in the World*, which recently topped National Geographic's list of the 100 greatest adventure books of all time. Cherry discovered in his writing a means to work out his grief and anger, but in life these doubts and fears proved far harder to quell. As the years progressed, he struggled against depression, breakdown, and despair, and was haunted by the possibility that he alone had had the opportunity to save Scott and his friends. Sara Wheeler's *Cherry* is the first biography of this soul-searching explorer, written with unrestricted access to his papers and the full cooperation of his widow who has refused all requests until now. Wheeler's biography brings to life this great hero of Antarctic exploration and gives us a glimpse of the terrible human cost of his adventures.

.com Sara Wheeler, author of the acclaimed *Terra Incognita*, became fascinated with Antarctic explorer Apsley Cherry-Garrard after reading *The Worst Journey in the World*, his classic account of Captain Robert Falcon Scott's doomed expedition to the South Pole, of which he was a survivor. "His book was not the disembodied account of an expedition: it was an intimate reflection of the man behind the authorial mask. I wanted a glimpse of that man," she writes. What she offers is much more than a glimpse; *Cherry* is a fascinating and detailed look at this complicated and often troubled hero. A man of substantial means and a strong sense of duty, Cherry "recoiled from the sedate life of the country squire," throwing himself into strenuous adventures whenever he was not crippled by episodes of severe depression which haunted him his entire life. After returning from the pole, he traveled to eastern China as part of a zoological expedition and then served Britain in World War I before writing *The Worst Journey in the World*, which National Geographic has called the greatest adventure book of all time. Wheeler covers not only his many adventures, but the inner workings of the man, such as his bouts with mental illness, including delusional phases, hypochondria, and severe anxiety, all of which affected his physical health as well. She also covers his often complex relationships, including his close friendship with George Bernard Shaw, who certainly influenced Cherry's writing. Written with the cooperation of Cherry's widow and full access to his papers and notes, this is the first authorized biography of this extraordinary man. --Shawn Carkonen From Publishers Weekly In a richly detailed and lyrical biography, Wheeler (*Terra Incognita*) traces the life of British adventurer Apsley Cherry-Garrard from his time as "a small boy with a lively imagination and a taste for snails and solitude" to his participation in Robert Scott's fateful 1911 expedition to reach the South Pole. While many have questioned and even vilified the members of Scott's voyage for everything

from naivete to outright blundering, Wheeler takes a sympathetic, even reverent attitude toward her subject. Cherry-Garrard unfolds as a complicated figure whose youthful quest for adventure enmeshed him in an undertaking that towered over the rest of his life. While it would be hard for any historical account to rival Cherry-Garrard's own descriptions in his memoir *The Worst Journey in the World*, Wheeler tells the story of the entire voyage, whereas Cherry-Garrard focused on only one part of it. Though she quotes often from his book, the passages are complemented and occasionally contradicted by the journals of other members of the trip. In this way, Wheeler supplies the little facts that truly make her story vivid, like one explorer almost being killed by a 500-pound crate of hams propelled by a blizzard wind or another suggesting a can opener to cut through Cherry-Garrard's frozen clothes. Eloquent and gripping, Wheeler goes on to chronicle Cherry-Garrard's troubled homecoming and how, through writing his book and finding love late in life, the explorer made his ultimate discovery redemption. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Booklist On Robert Scott's ill-fated race to be the first to reach the South Pole, Cherry-Garrard was one of the youngest members of the expedition. Despite his youth and inexperience, he was sent out to meet Scott as he returned from the Pole. Of course, Scott and his comrades froze to death only 12 miles away from Garrard and relief. Some condemned Garrard for not pushing on through a blizzard to find Scott. Although it was unlikely that he could have changed the fatal outcome, Garrard was haunted by feelings of guilt for the remainder of his life. Yet, he managed to lead a productive and exciting life as a writer and soldier. Wheeler, a journalist and travel writer, views her subject as one of the last of the adventurer heroes of the Victorian age. But he seemed unable to come to terms with the rapid political and cultural changes that shattered the certainties of the Victorian age. This biography cannot resolve his inner contradictions, but it examines the man and his times with credibility. Jay Freeman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved