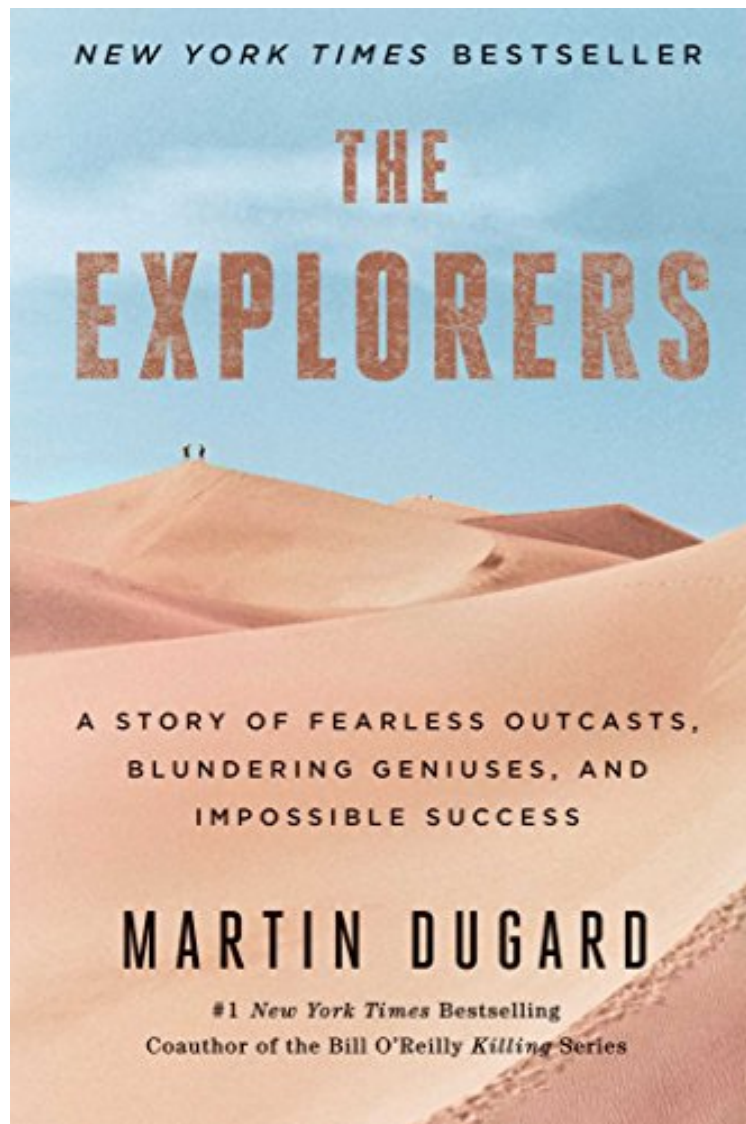


(Download free ebook) The Explorers: A Story of Fearless Outcasts, Blundering Geniuses, and Impossible Success

## The Explorers: A Story of Fearless Outcasts, Blundering Geniuses, and Impossible Success

*Martin Dugard*

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**Martin Dugard : The Explorers: A Story of Fearless Outcasts, Blundering Geniuses, and Impossible Success** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Explorers: A Story of Fearless Outcasts, Blundering Geniuses, and Impossible Success:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not Dugard's Best, and I'm a Fan!By Laurie KelleyI have read

scores of books on explorers of all types, and in particular love Martin Dugard's "Into Africa," one of the best books on exploration I have ever read. I've read it several times and recommend it to everyone. I have bought several more of his books in anticipation. "The Explorers" seeks to analyze common qualities of explorers in an effort to understand what makes a person become an explorer, and what traits defined the famous explorers in history. Its thesis reminded me a lot of Margaret Morrell's book *Shackleton's Way*, which successfully extracts business principles from the story of Shackleton's Antarctic survival saga. Her book was organized, thoughtful, logical and practical. This book unfortunately is not. It's not up to the quality that I know Dugard can produce. As a writer and editor, I examined it from a literary point of view. The writing style is rambling, casual, disjointed, which makes for a difficult read. Paragraphs bounce from topic to topic; a term or concept is introduced, then dropped while another topic is introduced; the reader is left wondering how they are all connected. Sometimes Dugard connects the dots, sometimes not. It's a frustrating read. The book also seems to be a platform to discredit explorer Richard Burton, while extolling Speke. Not a problem, and I found it interesting because Dugard is correct that Burton has many fans but it comes across as biased and personal. The Burton/Speke controversy colors the entire book, so that rather than exemplify the unique traits of explorers (of which both men had in abundance), it becomes a vendetta to discredit Burton, which is odd. I feel that topic belongs in a different book. It seemed like Dugard wasn't sure what direction to take with this book, and so it becomes a rambling discourse, branching off at any time into subtopics and more subtopics, until you, exploring this book, become very lost in its jungle. For example, in the chapter on Self-Discipline, Dugard defines self-discipline as being all about action. (well, in part, but not all) The very next paragraph jumps to talk about self-efficacy. Then a few paragraphs later jumps into self-mastery, the necessary character modification needed to make that dream a reality. And then, further discussing self-mastery, in the next paragraph, talks about it being behavior modification. I mean, character modification is not the same thing as behavior modification. I was very confused trying to follow what Dugard was saying. Dugard gets into trouble by tossing about definitions of character traits and psychological terms (like lizard brain) which I don't think he has researched well, or perhaps is not qualified to speak about. His definitions are half-formed or trite: contradictory at worst and confusing at best. Sometimes he cites studies in psychology to back up his claims, but often not, and just relies on a pop psychology approach. This comes across as a bit lazy and not well-researched. I think perhaps this book might be enjoyed best by those new to the lives of explorers, but for anyone who has read in-depth about Peary, Scott, Shackleton, Burton and Speke, Livingston and more, you may find this a frustrating and disappointing read. If Dugard could focus better, structure the book better, remove the personal vendetta against Burton, be more objective, and organized, this could have been a much better book. I blame a lot on his editor, who should have caught all these rambling statements and lack of bridging between paragraphs and topics. The topic is great, the handling (and editing) of it lackadaisical and lazy. I vote for a future edition, in which the content has been refined and the writing style honed, and the editing sharp and insightful. This book comes across as a free-style first draft which needs to go back to the drawing board. But I'm still a Dugard fan, and "Into Africa" remains one of my all-time favorite books. I went to Zanzibar myself after reading it, and saw Livingstone's famous medicine chest and Stanley's handwritten roster for porters; Dugard made it all so alive for me. I so wish this book could have lived up to his potential. 11 of 12 people found the following review helpful. I would recommend a bona fide historian's endeavor over this book any ...By David J McClain Very disappointing. In the author's own words, rather than telling the "Burton and Speke saga...I began to wonder about not just the emotional motivations to pursue a life of adventure, but the specific character traits that went into being a successful explorer." This results in meandering pop psychology ruminations about "lizard brain," the characteristics of introverts and extroverts, and other tedium. The journals and rather interesting story of Burton and Speke are given only synoptic attention, rather than being used as prism through which to study their character and motivations in vivid color. I would recommend a bona fide historian's endeavor over this book any day. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. UncoveredBy Anthony McClure Outstanding info on a very little known part of history

Learn to unlock your inner explorer in this riveting account of a great, forbidding adventure and a fascinating examination of the seven key traits of history's most famous explorers [with] infusions of insight and enthusiasm (Publishers Weekly, starred review). In 1856, two intrepid adventurers, Richard Francis Burton and John Hanning Speke, set off to unravel a geographical unknown: the location of the Nile River's source. They traveled deep into an uncharted African wilderness together, arrived at two different solutions to the mystery, and parted ways as sworn enemies. The feud became an international sensation on their return to England, and a public debate was scheduled to decide whose theory was correct. What followed was a massive spectacle with an outcome no one could have foreseen. In *The Explorers*, New York Times bestselling author Martin Dugard shares the rich saga of the Burton and Speke expedition and guides readers through the seven traits that history's most legendary explorers called on to survive their impossible journeys. In doing so, Dugard demonstrates that these traits have a most practical application in everyday life. We see St. Brendan the Navigator, driven by hope, sail into the unknown, and the curiosity that inspired John Ledyard to attempt to walk around the globe, and the perseverance Howard Carter needed to discover Tutankhamen's tomb. From these and other examples, Dugard extracts lessons for unlocking the explorer in us all.

From Booklist Author of titles about Christopher Columbus, James Cook, and David Livingston, Dugard here delves into the explorer as a personality type. Acknowledging a debt to a similar inquiry, mountaineer Wilfrid Noyces *The Springs of Adventure* (1959), Dugard structures his title around a famous expedition, Richard Burton and John Speke's 1857-58 quest to discover the source of the Nile. Using seven traits to illustrate their characters as explorers, Dugard discusses the events of their journey in terms of each man's traits. The book's chapters are headed: curiosity, hope, passion, courage, independence, self-discipline, and perseverance. As Burton and Speke encounter problems typical in discovery: daunting terrain, illness, privation, and mutual acrimony, Dugard develops the seven traits along several tracks, including psychology, physiology, and other adventurers who exemplified the trait under discussion. Thus, his narrative can jump from introversion to dopamine, and from Burton-Speke to Ernest Shackleton's courageous perseverance to rescue his crew from Antarctica in 1914-16. Such a varied shuffling of subjects should keep the exploration audience locked into Dugard's portrait of the discoverer archetype. --Gilbert Taylor "Using his usual brilliant research, Martin Dugard takes the reader on a thrill ride to some of the most dangerous places on earth. Can you handle it?" Bill O'Reilly "A captivating introduction to the world of exploration. . . Dugard knows how to tell a good story and assembles a fascinating cast of characters. Columbus Dispatch Martin Dugard has written bestselling histories with Bill O'Reilly, and with me, but with *The Explorers*, he shows that he does his best work as a solo performer. *The Explorers* has a distinctive voice and the drama never flags from beginning to end. James Patterson An exciting and uplifting book, with inspiration on every page. Seth Godin, author of *The Icarus Deception* About the Author Martin Dugard is the New York Times bestselling author of *Into Africa*, *The Training Ground*, *Last Voyage of Columbus*, and *The Explorers*. He is also the coauthor, with political commentator Bill O'Reilly, of *Killing Lincoln*, *Killing Kennedy*, *Killing Jesus*, and *Killing Patton*. He lives in Southern California with his wife and three sons.