

BRUCE LUYENDYK REVEALS  
THE  
**PERILS**  
& **BEAUTY** OF  
**ANTARCTICA**

IN HIS NEW MEMOIR

BY ADANNA MORIARTY, WRITER

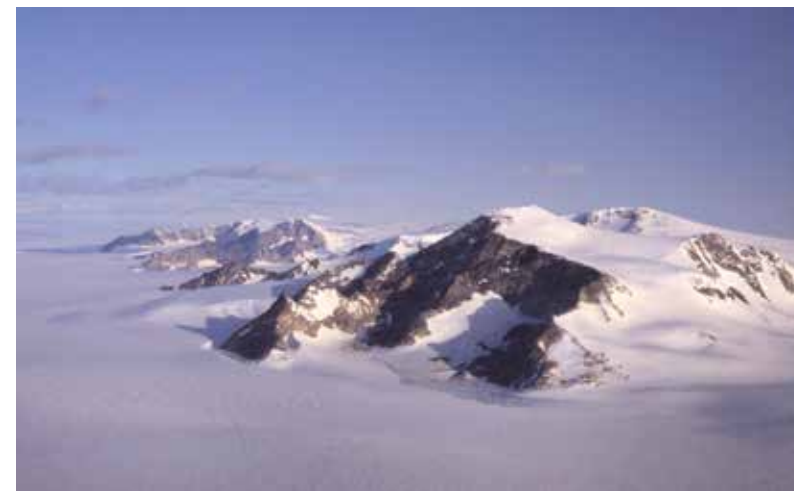
MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Birchall Camp in Antarctica. Photo by Steve Tucker. Mount Luyendyk is pictured in the background.



On the trail in a snow storm. Photo by Steve Tucker.



First Sight of Mount Luyendyk in Antarctica named after Geologist and Hope Ranch resident Bruce Luyendyk. Photo by C. Siddoway.

**H**ow far could you push yourself in the ambitious quest for knowledge? How uncomfortable are you willing to be in pursuit of your dreams? Bruce Luyendyk, Hope Ranch resident and Professor Emeritus of geology from UCSB, answers these questions in his new memoir *Mighty Bad Land: A Perilous Expedition to Antarctica Reveal Clues to an Eighth Continent*. He tells the story of his first of several expeditions. Six people alone in the wilderness and the many challenges they faced, isolated in extreme situations in the pursuit of knowledge and a dream.

The book illustrates how the human spirit can persevere through unpredictable circumstances, near-death experiences, raging weather, and personalities that don't always see eye to eye. Luyendyk's internal monologue is the story of a man whose own limitations almost beat him at his mission yet pushes through anyway.

*"How improbable to stand here at the bottom of the world in this wilderness—embraced by the solitude, the infinite, the white, the blue, the peril, and the impossible magnificence."* Bruce Luyendyk, excerpt from *Mighty Bad Land*

A tale filled with the everyday occasions of food, music, and how one passes days of Antarctic white-out conditions, gale force winds, and snowstorms only those who've experienced it could accurately describe. Moments spent in the vast and wild beauty of one of the most remote places on earth, Marie Byrd Land (or, MBL, Mighty Bad Land), and the Chester and Fosdick mountains. Their only shelter is a small pyramid-shaped two-person tent called a Scott tent: three tents, six people, and a scientific theory.

There are few places as brutal as Antarctica. The Antarctic summer, with an average temperature of minus 18°F at the South Pole and a permanent midday sun, is one of the wildest places to attempt adaptability. Yet, scientists and explorers have been doing just that since the turn of the last century.

"Antarctica had been a dream since an early sabbatical from college," Luyendyk commented on where the journey to Antarctica started. "While working as a research assistant at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego I learned of Ernest Shackleton and his quest to be the first person to the South Pole. It would take me almost thirty years to follow in the footsteps of this legendary explorer and touch my feet to the icy ground on a continent only a few have seen. It's been one of my greatest privileges as a scientist."

Early explorers Shackleton, Roald Amundsen, and Robert Falcon Scott set out on multiple trips to be the first to the South Pole through extreme weather and an unknown land with no native population to help guide them. These expeditions met deaths, starvation, and ingenuity, with crews





The Expedition Crew at Swarm Peak on Christmas Eve, 1989. Photo by Steve Tucker, Bruce is third from left.

surviving a year waiting for rescue at the bottom of the world.

“This book is an unvarnished account of a scientist and his team exploring one of the most remote wild places left on earth,” Historian Edward J. Larson, 1998 Pulitzer Prize for History recipient, writes of *Mighty Bad Land*. “Readers will learn from him what kind of people do science at the uttermost end of the earth and how they do it. They will follow his team and see his personal challenges on their first expedition. Finally, they’ll find the answer to the question: what does it take to prevail in Antarctica today?”

“Antarctica is a lot like I imagine the moon to be,” Luyendyk said on the aloneness of MBL.

Unlike most books on Antarctica, the reader becomes embedded with the geologist’s team and experiences firsthand the challenges, companionship, failures, bravery, and success that scientific research in an unforgiving place brings. He takes readers to a pure wilderness experienced by few humans—a place where unseen menace waits everywhere. The book is a scientifically palatable story for the layperson, adventurer seeker, and those curious about Antarctica.

*“I took a moment; I felt strong. I let myself grin. Something’s going to happen. I don’t know what. We’re about to discover, to create new knowledge. How great is that?” Bruce Luyendyk excerpt from Mighty Bad Land.*

*Mighty Bad Land* tells of Luyendyk’s first expedition’s findings. Like many

scientific efforts, this one resulted in surprises. Luyendyk realized that vast submarine plateaus were the host of New Zealand, continental pieces that broke away from the Antarctic sector of the supercontinent Gondwana. He coined the term “Zealandia” to

describe this new continent that today is only revealed by the islands of New Zealand. Nestled in the back of the book are Luyendyk’s geologic findings for those interested in the expedition’s science. What his team discovered is remarkable, a stunning revelation with economic and geopolitical consequences. It took multiple trips and collaborations with other scientists’ discoveries to flush out the entire story of Zealandia.

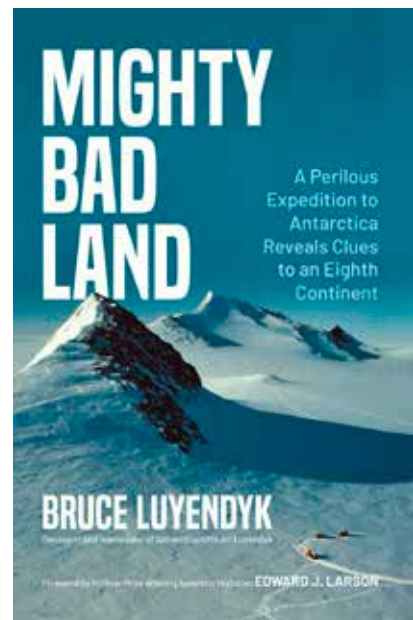
Luyendyk spent his career on the quest for the earth’s history by studying rocks and the story they could tell. No stranger to risky situations, Luyendyk participated in multiple underwater geologic studies in small deep-water submarines, called submersibles, more than a mile down at the bottom of the ocean.

Throughout the book, Luyendyk ruminates on Antarctic dangers and the privilege of being one of a handful of people to set foot in the wilderness of the MBL, its purple mountains, and immense glacial plains. The story is striking and, at times, makes the reader anxious for the safety of these six humans and the dangers they face at the end of the

earth. The book has compelling images throughout, with photos taken by the team balancing the text. These show the vast wild beauty of one of the most remote places on earth, isolated eight hundred miles from the nearest rescue team, hot real food, and a civilized shower and bed.

*“I was overcome by the unique aloneness of the spot where I found myself. Not everybody had the chance to see what spread before me.” Bruce Luyendyk excerpt from Mighty Bad Land.*

Available for pre-order now to be released on May 30, *Mighty Bad Land* is a tale of grit and teamwork. Even facing the harshest elements, the hunger for knowledge and the key to the truth reign supreme. **Meet author Bruce Luyendyk on June 7 from 6 to 8 pm at Chaucer’s Books for the local book launch.**



On board Hercules on pull out day, Bruce is pictured on the far left.



**SAVE UP TO \$8,676**

with the exclusive Thermador ONE-TWO-FREE® program

See store for details.



**KITCHEN & BATH CENTER**  
Family Owned & Operated Since 1982

**Agoura Hills**  
30621 Canwood St.  
818.991.8846

**New! La Quinta**  
78740 CA-111  
760.238.5160

**Lomita**  
2413 Pacific Coast HWY, #201  
310.802.6380

**Moorpark**  
14349 White Sage Rd.  
805.222.1380

**Oxnard**  
887 Ventura Blvd.  
805.278.0388

**Santa Barbara**  
3920 State St.  
805.898.9883

www.wdcappliances.com