



Stephen Venables is one of Britain's best known mountaineers, whose many Himalayan climbs include the first British ascent of Everest without oxygen, by a new route up the East Face. He has also climbed extensively throughout the Alps, as well as in North America, the Andes, Africa, New Zealand, Australia and South Georgia. He is a past President of both the Alpine Club and the South Georgia Association. His twelve books include *Painted Mountains*, which won the Boardman Tasker Prize and *Higher than the Eagle Soars*, which won the Mountain Literature award at the Banff International Mountain Festival. He earns his living as a writer, expedition leader and much sought after public speaker, based in Bath, where he lives with his wife and son.

For more information please visit [www.stephenvenables.com](http://www.stephenvenables.com)

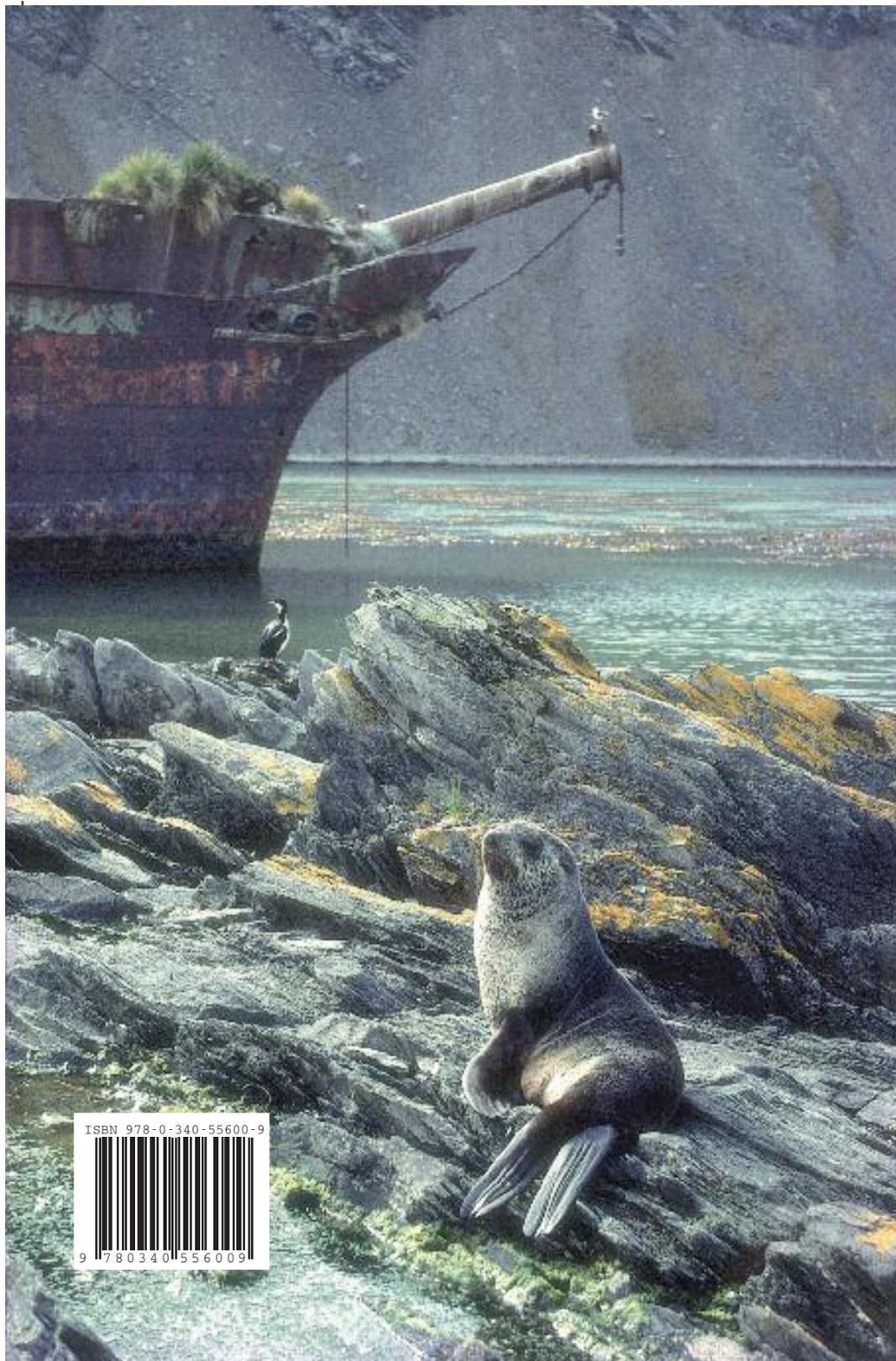
Front cover photo: Sunrise gilds the summit of Mt Sugartop, 7,623 feet above Cumberland East Bay.

Back cover photo: Fur seal and blue-eyed cormorants relaxing in Ocean Harbour by the hulk of the *Bayard*, wrecked when she ripped her moorings in 1911.

Above: The author on the summit of Mt Petrel in 2008. Hair recession since his first visit to the island is mirrored by a similar receding of the Neumayer Glacier in the background.

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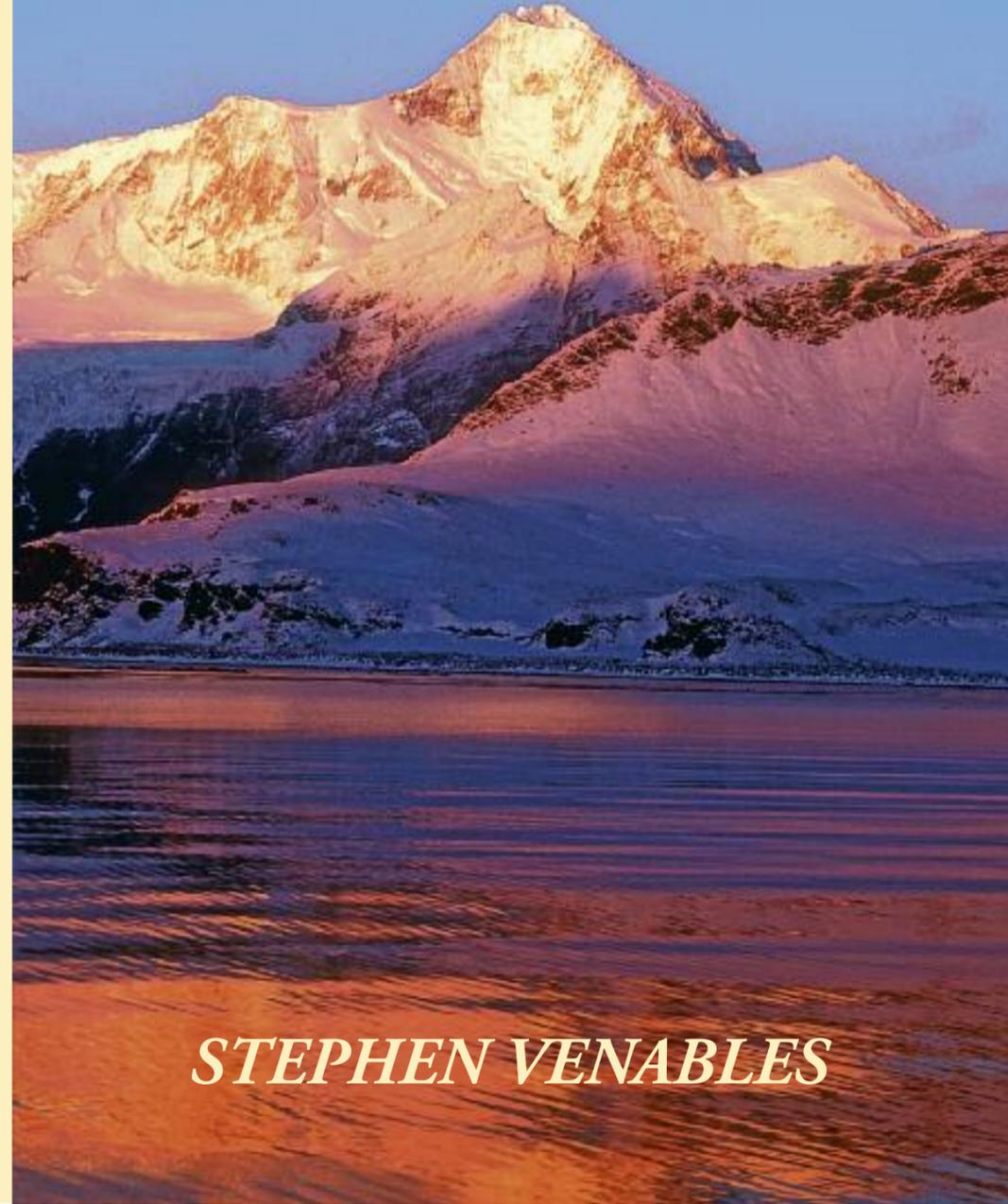


ISLAND AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD  
STEPHEN VENABLES

Odyssey Books

# ISLAND AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD

## A South Georgia Odyssey



STEPHEN VENABLES

South Georgia is one of the most remote islands on earth, a pinprick in the vast emptiness of the Southern Ocean, 850 miles from the Falklands. It is a mountain paradise with glaciers tumbling almost ten thousand feet from the highest summits to the sea. Where the ice has receded, every inch of cliff and beach is thronged with penguins, seals and albatrosses, jostling for space in one of the world's greatest wildlife displays.

Stephen Venables recounts his adventures on one of the first mountaineering expeditions ever to visit South Georgia. Bludgeoned by blizzards, Venables sheltered in an ice cave for 23 days, with Brian Davison, Julian Freeman-Attwood, Lindsay Griffin and Kees 't Hooft, before the team could emerge to make first ascents of some of the highest peaks on the island. But this is much more than a climbing tale: in his finely observed portrait, Venables draws on accounts by Captain Cook, who discovered South Georgia in 1775, Anton Larsen, founder of the first whaling station, the actor and explorer Duncan Carse, Nick Barker, Captain of the *Endurance* during the 1982 conflict, and, of course, Ernest Shackleton, whose crossing of South Georgia after a gruelling open boat voyage in 1916 was the final chapter in one of the most gripping survival epics of all time.

This special new edition of *Island at the Edge of the World* includes an updated historical appendix and an extra chapter, illustrated with 16 new pages of stunning colour photos, describing Venables' more recent expeditions to the island. In 2008, with the renowned yachtsman Skip Novak, he guided a party on the famous Shackleton Traverse; eight years earlier he followed the same route with two of the world's best known mountaineers, Conrad Anker and Reinhold Messner, during the making of the IMAX movie, *Shackleton's Antarctic Adventure*.

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