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## NEW/NOTEWORTHY

By Robert Merritt  
Times-Dispatch staff writer



### Compassion

FOR THE LOVE OF LIFE.  
By Erich Fromm. Free Press. 152 pp. \$14.95.

Hans Jurgen Schultz, who edited this final work by the eminent philosopher, social critic and psychoanalyst, aptly describes Erich Fromm as "neither sorcerer

nor scholastic." The book is drawn from a series of radio talks that Fromm delivered a few years before his death in 1980. They show a refreshing spontaneity, confronting issues ranging from the affluence and ennui of modern society to the meaning of Hitler's personality. He comments on human growth in a world controlled by "manufactured needs," then he looks at the origins of aggression, the crisis in patriarchal society, the universal language of dreams and the uses of psychology in everyday life. Fromm views the world with an intense knowledge of life's pains and tragedies, but he still manages to offer a courageous, life-affirming message. At the bottom line, he shows us the potential strengths of self, family and community, and above all the transcending power of love. His is a philosophy overflowing with life and compassion.

### Polar adventurer

SHACKLETON. By Roland Huntford. Atheneum. 774 pp. \$29.95.

Roland Huntford wrote "Scott and Amundsen," which was televised in a PBS series as "The Last Place on Earth" and republished under that title. During the writing and research for that story of the legendary race

to the South Pole, the name Ernest Shackleton continually crossed his path. The result is this, the first full account of the great Polar explorer, an unabashed adventurer whose life emerges from the stuff of myth. Shackleton was a member of Robert Scott's expedition in 1906 (he was sent home for health reasons) who later struck out on his own. He failed in his attempt to be the first to reach the South Pole, but he came back to try the "last great journey" across the Antarctic continent. That trip, with the loss of his ship, a long, open-boat journey to safety and eventual rescue is a great tale of survival, given the full treatment. But Shackleton's life is much more than that. Huntford shows a man who could be the prototype for world adventurers, a half-poet, half-buccaneer driven by a ruthless ambition, the ups and downs of romance and tragedy, charisma and ineptitude, rivalries and hairbreadth escapes.



### Triumphs

SUMMER. By Lisa Grunwald. Knopf. 212 pp. \$15.95.

January is traditionally a time for the appearance of books by first-time novelists, and Lisa Grunwald, an editor at Esquire, may be the discovery of the season.

She has taken a tense, emotional story and turned it into a graceful and remarkably controlled exploration of the intricacies of family love and the triumph of life. "Summer" is the story of a family of artists. Jennifer Burke, a photographer, has arrived at the family's summer home following her freshman year at college, and she knows that she faces an uneasy few months. She has just learned that her mother has cancer, and that the prognosis is not good. The family has gathered. There is Jennifer's beautiful sister, an aspiring actress; father Milo, a successful sculptor, and mother Lulu, who gave up her own career as an artist to devote herself to her family. The summer house is on an island, a fitting location for a closed family of islands that is unwilling to open up, even to each other. It is the deterioration of Lulu's health that forces the interaction of family members. The emotion is highly pitched, but the author never allows the story to