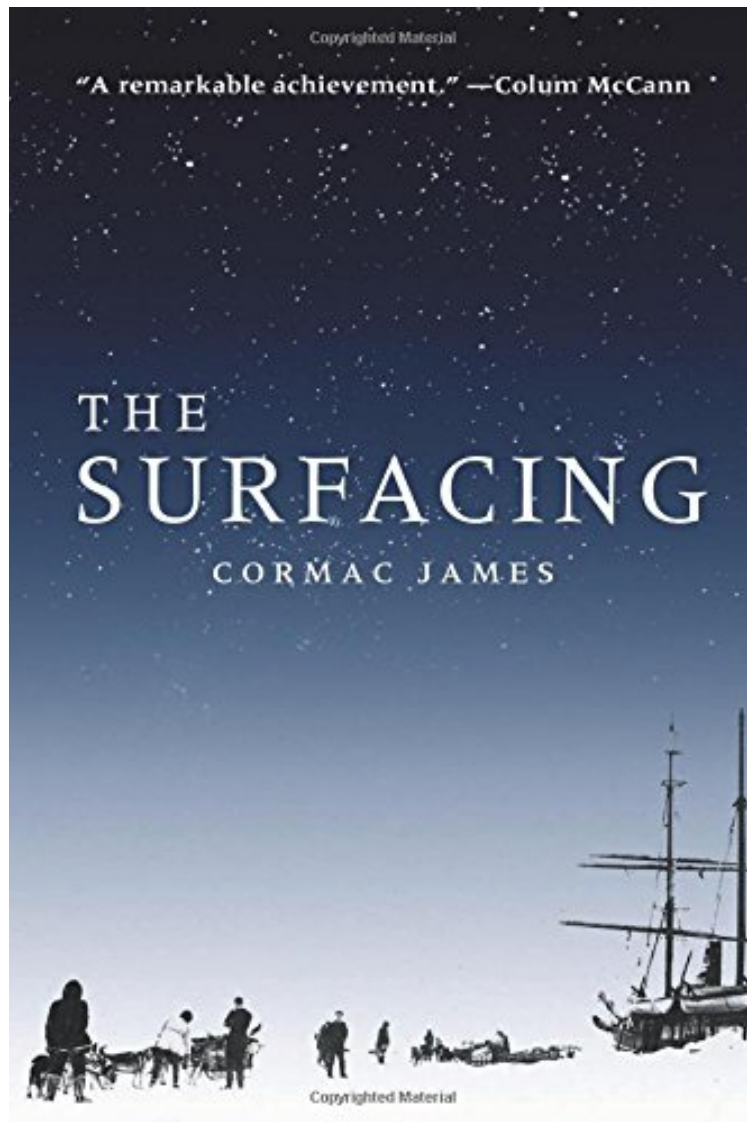


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## The Surfacing

*Cormac James*

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**Cormac James : The Surfacing** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Surfacing:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. CaptivatingBy Kindle CustomerInteresting writing style which serves to further dehumanize the waiting and the suffering. From an 'away' perspective, the story requires that you keep reading.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy loretta breshArrived in time, just can't seem to get into this book...it is a Book Club choice. Thanks0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. One StarBy Serene RhinoHorrible waste of paper and ink.

Oprah.com Fresh Pick for Your Fall Book-Club Meeting Gratifyingly defies expectations. New York Times Book Review [A] harrowing Arctic adventure. Oprah.com An extraordinary novel, combining a powerful narrative with a considered and poetic use of language. . . . Reading the book, I recalled the dramatic natural landscape of Jack London and the wild untamed seas of William Golding. JOHN BOYNE, author of *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* and *A History of Loneliness* The great topic of Cormac James *The Surfacing* is the reach of human possibility. The prose is calm, vivid, hypnotic, and acutely piercing. James is attuned to the psychological moment: this is a book about fatherhood and all its attendant terrors. Its a remarkable achievement. COLUM McCANN, author of *Let the Great World Spin* and *Transatlantic* Far from civilization, on the hunt for Sir John Franklins recently lost Northwest Passage expedition, Lieutenant Morgan and his crew find themselves trapped in ever-hardening Arctic ice that threatens to break apart their ship. When Morgan realizes that a stowaway will give birth to his child in the frozen wilderness, he finds new clarity and courage to lead his men across a bleak expanse as shifting, stubborn, and treacherous as human nature itself. A tale of psychological fortitude against impossible odds, *The Surfacing* is also a beautifully told story of one mans transformative journey toward fatherhood. Cormac James was born in Cork, Ireland, and lives in Montpellier, France, with his wife and son. *The Surfacing* is his North American debut novel.

Oprah.com Fresh Pick for Your Fall Book-Club Meeting Gratifyingly defies expectations. New York Times Book Why Your Book Club Will Love It: Theres one hell of a woman on this harrowing Arctic adventure. You'll want to invite her to your next gathering. . . . Move[s] so quickly, you'll be calling each other halfway through the month, just to chat about the ending. Oprah.com *The Surfacing* is a rare blend of adventure narrative and literary fiction, survival story and philosophical musing. . . . What emerges is a pure and transcendent vision of the joy of fatherhood and the joy of learning to trust another person in the face of a future that may hold nothing but ice and darkness. Historical Novels A stunning historical novel. . . . A chiseled, cool work of poetic brilliance. . . . A mesmerizing novel about never-ending ice, bitter cold, shipwrecks and fatherhood. Shelf Awareness for Readers A slow-burning psychological study. . . . Underneath all the ice, there is real emotional depth. Kirkus s James sharp prose and attention to detail . . . leaves a lasting impression of this momentous journey. Publishers Weekly James uses the sublime appeal of the Arctic and the extreme situation of his characters as the stage for an essentially domestic psychological novel. *The Surfacing* is about how people live together and how we rise to the occasion of pregnancy and birth. . . . This is a book for grownups. . . . The expedition, after all, is just a metaphor; the *Impetus* a ship of fools, the protagonist, Morgan, an Odysseus whos not going anywhere. . . . The prose matches the landscape, rigorously unadorned, returning the gaze of a reader led into a world without hiding places. Guardian Although [*The Surfacing*] initially appears to focus on the unwinnable crusade of man against nature, at its centre is a love story not a romance between adults but between a father and the son he learns to love. . . . A moving reminder that some of the biggest journeys in life dont involve going anywhere at all. Financial Times As much Jack London as Daniel Woodrell. . . . James cleverly fashions a tense, controlled work that is bolstered by weighty research. Irish Examiner Superb. . . . [*The Surfacing*] is told in lean, cool, poetic prose and is utterly compelling. Scotland Sunday Herald Highly original and poetic. . . . Writers as diverse as Homer, Conrad, Melville and William Golding have led the way and James picks up the baton or oarwielding it with great skill. . . . The writing sparkles with inventiveness. . . . Scenes break as turmoil calls all hands to deck in a battle for survival, offering an intense experience for the reader. Irish Times (John Boyne) Theres nothing like the reading buzz you get when a new book by an unfamiliar name grabs you and doesnt let go. . . . The cool precision of James writing draws you on as surely as if youre there, trapped in that claustrophobic interior with the vast northern landscape stretching forever outside. Irish Times (Arminta Wallace) James haunting novel memorably captures the desolate landscape and the triumph of the human spirit in adversity. Mail on Sunday Engrossing. . . . It is James willingness to break free from the limitations of the traditional Arctic tale that takes the novel beyond the genre and widens its appeal. It allows the novel to venture far beyond the expedition narrative and delve into issues of fatherhood and responsibility, bringing all the complexities of the crews life back home under the blinding glare and unforgiving scrutiny of the Arctic sun. Beneath the surface of this expedition story, as with the stark ice-scape of the Arctic, it is in fact teeming with life. Irish Independent Poetic and dramatic. ABC Radio Nationals The Book Show James has clearly felt the aesthetic need to sound out the gap between the extant sources of such expeditions and the way polar regions and the first men who tackled them remain almost mystically out of reach of the 21st-century mind. . . . The further the journey goes on the more we are willing as readers to kedge our way through his rendition of a madly ambitious, environmentally magnetic but inhospitable world. Australian There are unforgettable descriptions of the creaking, shifting, endless ice, and the contrast with the warmth of a growing new life is very well done. London Times [*The Surfacing*] achieves a hard-won emotional punch in its descriptions of Morgan falling in love with his son, and finally understanding the point of life as he faces death. . . . A difficult but rewarding read. Gutter magazine A nuanced meditation on fatherhood and, along the way, there are some terrific portrayals of life aboard ship in the mid-19th century. . . . The joy is in the prose, lyrical but not overblown, and the winningly straightforward plot. Theres also every chance that youll be tempted to turn up the thermostat while reading. Geographical Magazine An extraordinary novel, combining a powerful narrative with a considered and poetic use of language. . . . Reading the book, I recalled the dramatic natural

landscape of Jack London and the wild untamed seas of William Golding. Cormac James writing is ambitious enough to be compared with either. JOHN BOYNE, author of *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* and *A History of Loneliness*The great topic of Cormac James *The Surfacing* is the reach of human possibility. The prose is calm, vivid, hypnotic, and acutely piercing. . . . This is a book about fatherhood and all its attendant terrors. James recognizes the surfacing of love in the face of solitude. Its a remarkable achievement, a stylish novel, full of music and quiet control. COLUM McCANN, author of *Let the Great World Spin* and *Transatlantic*Cormac James writing is very assured, with a harsh poetic edge. His evocations of barren landscape, sea weather, pack ice, and frozen skies are powerful and compelling. ROSE TREMAIN, author of *Music Silence* and *Merivel: A Man of His Time*I read *The Surfacing* in Gjoa Haven, where Franklin Expedition spirits seem to cry out on the winter winds, and Cormac James writing spoke through the midday twilight with the chill of a voice from the distant past. Like the High Arctic world that he masterfully conjures, his storytelling is beautifully stark and captivating. *The Surfacing* lures with the tundras promise: new life can come from death. PAUL WATSON, Arctic correspondent for the *Toronto Star*, and author of *Where War Lives*