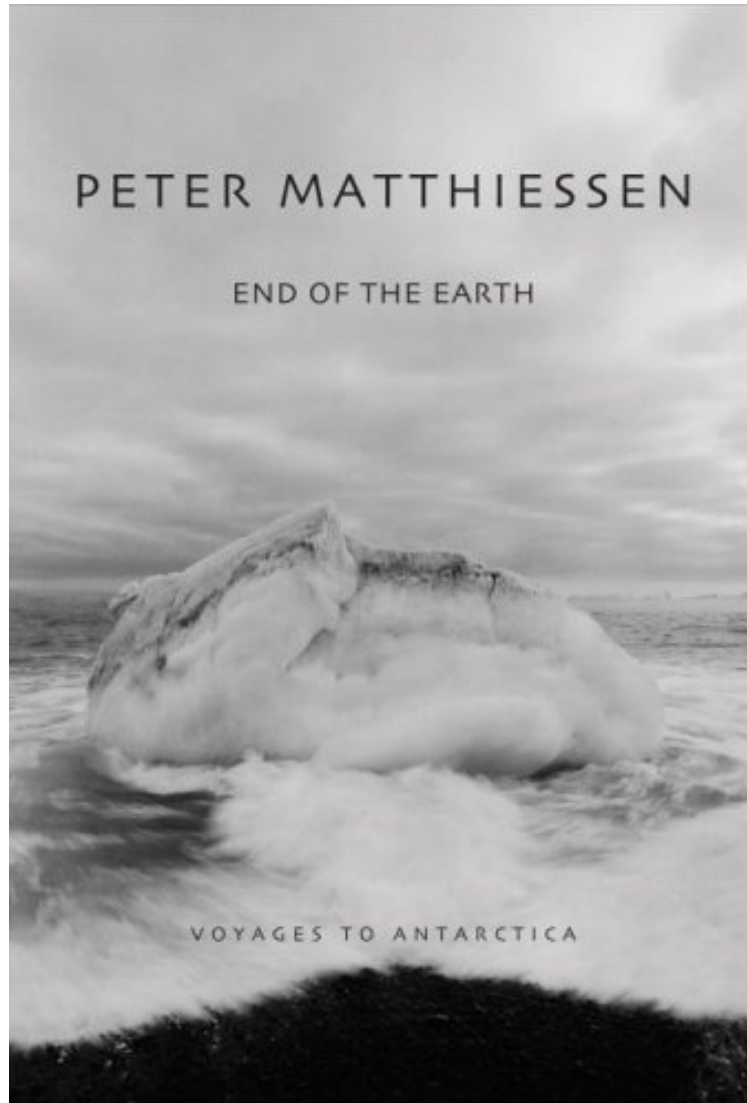


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End of the Earth: Voyaging to Antarctica

Peter Matthiessen

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Peter Matthiessen : End of the Earth: Voyaging to Antarctica before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised End of the Earth: Voyaging to Antarctica:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An excellent annotated journal of Antarctic travel By JDiverI am undoubtedly biased, because I was on the Akademik Ioffe trip to South Georgia and Antarctica with Victor Emanuel, Peter Matthiessen, Bob and Birgit Bateman, et al. It was a splendid, truly brilliant trip, and I really like this book because it documents the highlights of the trip and adds some ruminations and connections to other world issues with vital and descriptive language that is evocative to me. Some descriptions are truly effulgent and capture the essence of

what we saw, from tiny, coruscating bubbles of air being released by ancient ice making effervescent, crystalline sounds we could listen to in the great Antarctic silence to the smell of krill in whale breath as yet another whale surfaced and exhaled next to our fragile Zodiacs. Indeed, this is a journal - I commend it to those with an interest in Antarctic travel and global conservation. For you, I would rate it four stars; for me, six if such were possible. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Heading to Antarctica in November and enjoyed this book By James F. Caldwell This is the third Matthiessen book I've read. Heading to Antarctica in November and enjoyed this book, though it certainly isn't his best. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Antarctica: "You Are There" By Dennis Kalma The book is a series of short vignettes focused on distinct incidents or places encountered in his two visits to the Antarctic but they are tied together to create a single understanding of the region: the ten thousand and the one. As always, Matthiessen is a superb stylist. A great read if you want to know what it might be like to actually take such a trip.

End of the Earth brings to life the waters of the richest whale feeding grounds in the world, the wandering albatross with its 11-foot wingspan arching through the sky, and the habits of every variety of seal, walrus, petrel, and penguin in the area, all with boundless and contagious inquisitiveness. Magnificently written, the book evokes an appreciation and sympathy for a region as harsh as it is beautiful. Luminous and haunting . . . the contemporary Thoreau. The Wall Street Journal [Matthiessen] doesn't waste words, and in End of the Earth: Voyages to Antarctica, his homage to the austere splendor of that frozen continent, he hasn't deployed a single one whose choice I would care to take issue with. . . . Matthiessen writes crusty, chiseled sentences that demand to be read slowly the perfect prose equivalent of the landscapes he's describing. The New York Times Book Review Matthiessen and polar landscapes seem perfectly suited. . . . I found myself constantly re-reading sentences or paragraphs to savour all of their rich resonances. . . . Few if any authors on the region have so successfully compressed . . . Antarctic life . . . and I suspect it will become standard reading. The Guardian

About the Author Peter Matthiessen (1927-2014) was an American writer and naturalist who famously co-founded The Paris Review as a cover for his work as a CIA agent. He won National Book Awards for *The Snow Leopard* and *Shadow Country: A New Rendering of the Watson Legend*, making him the only author to have received the honor in both the nonfiction and fiction categories. Birgit Freybe Bateman is an award-winning photographer from Hexter, Germany. Her images have appeared in numerous exhibitions, magazines, and books. Some of her credits include *Force Field: 77 Women Poets of British Columbia* and *End of the Earth: Voyaging to Antarctica*. She lives on Salt Spring Island, British Columbia. To learn more, visit birgitbateman.com.