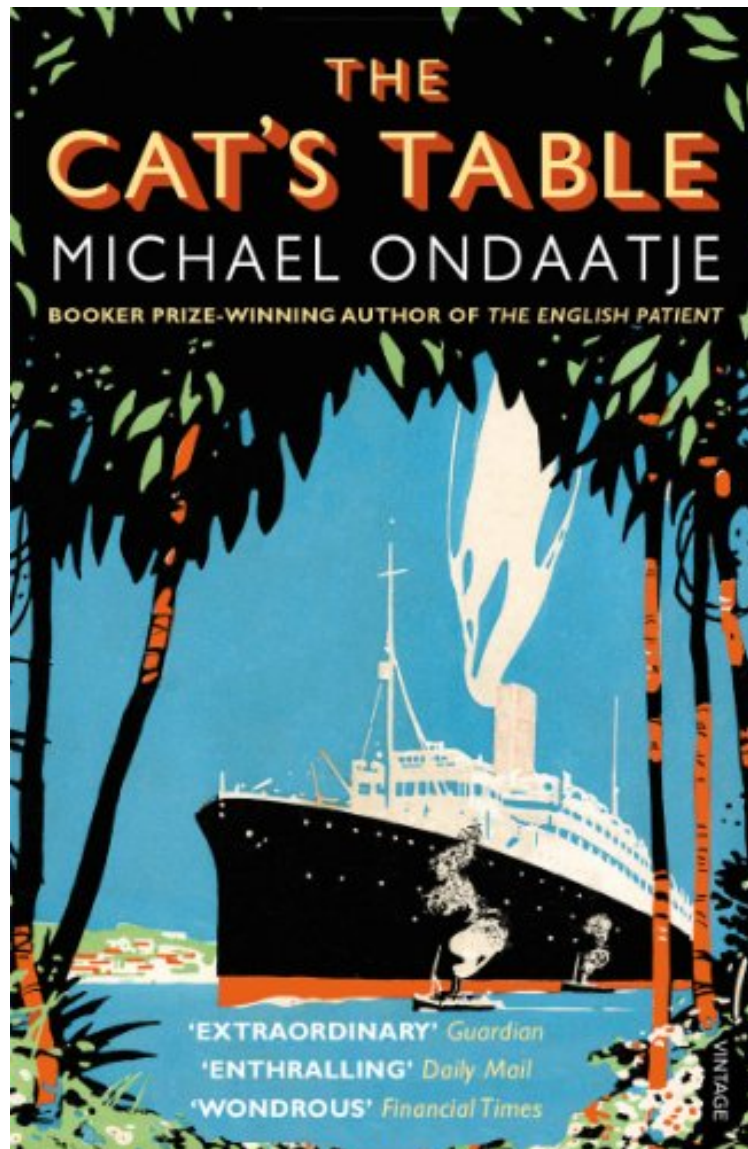


(Free and download) The Cat's Table

The Cat's Table

Von Michael Ondaatje

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Von Michael Ondaatje : The Cat's Table before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Cat's Table:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Schn geschriebenVon -KundeDas Buch ist in schnem Englisch geschrieben, die Handlung jedoch recht komplex und manchmal schwer zu durchschauen. Am Ende habe ich mich gefragt, worum es dem Autor in dem Buch eigentlich ging.4 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Richly Woven Coming-of-Age Tale with Vivid

Characters and Hidden Depths Von Donald Mitchell "Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall," -- Isaiah 40:30 (NKJV) It's easy to mistake this novel for an autobiography. That's how good it is. Michael Ondaatje deals with perspective in this story, taking as his starting point the awareness of an eleven-year-old boy on a sea voyage from Colombo to be reunited with his mother in England. In such circumstances, the boy is on the bottom of the social ladder that always seems overly important on board a ship. The book's title refers to his status as one of those assigned to the dining table furthest from the Captain's table, which is, of course, the acme of social status. The cat's table, by comparison, is at the outer edges of civilization. Due to finding two boys he can pal around with, the boy's days and nights are filled with adventures. They probe into places that adults easily overlook or disdain to consider. As a result, they spot subtle dramas at odd hours that grab their attention. Their adult companions at the cat's table are harder for the boys to figure out. However, any gestures of sympathy and friendship are quickly grasped and enjoyed. It's a more perilous voyage than one might imagine, as youthful pranks and escapades sometimes have important consequences. In a few places, Mr. Ondaatje moves forward into the future to reveal "what happened next" to add shadows and dimensions to the relationships among the characters on board. These sections felt a bit awkward to me by adding a little too much intrusion into the main story's pacing and timing. The plot may seem a bit over the top to some. I disagree. I thought the plot's scale was necessary in order to explore the book's fundamental focus on the limitations of perception and perspective. The Cat's Table certainly rewards a close reading of the novel as you go. There's an element of a mystery story here that you need to pay attention to in order to fully enjoy the story on the first reading. Yes, this book deserves at least a second reading. You'll marvel at the author's skill when you do. It's most impressive. When was the last time you read a novel that demanded an immediate rereading? It's all too infrequent in my experience. Bravo!

2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Die Leichtigkeit des Narrativen Von Gerhard Mersmann Michael Ondaatje, den bitte niemand mehr auf die Autorenschaft des Englischen Patienten reduziert, hat eine neue Erzählung herausgebracht. Mit *The Cat's Table* hat sich Ondaatje auf eine Episode seines eigenen Lebens konzentriert, die prägnant sein sollte. Handlungsrahmen ist eine 23-tägige Schiffspassage von Colombo nach London, die der Autor selbst im Alter von 12 Jahren erlebte, als er auf dem Weg vom damaligen Ceylon zu seiner Mutter nach England war. Ondaatje, kurz vor seinem siebzigsten Geburtstag, versucht sich an diesen autobiographisch historischen Moment zu erinnern und beginnt eine Textur zu weben, die nicht einfach zusammen zu bringen ist. Mit der Metapher des Katzentisches, an dem die Kinder in der Zweiten Klasse saßen, verweist Ondaatje gleich auf die Startbedingungen, die er als blutjunger Emigrant aus der englischen Kolonie auf dem Weg zum Zentrum des Imperiums, London, hatte. Zeuge des Geschehens, am Rande, nicht ganz ernst genommen. Was, wie im richtigen Leben, bei der Wahrnehmung des Katzentisches durch die etablierte Gesellschaft fehlt, aber in Ondaatjes Erzählung eine Kontur bekommt, sind die Impulse, die von dort ausgehen. Ondaatje beschreibt in loser Assoziation die verschiedenen Streiche der Heranwachsenden an Bord, ihre Abstecher an Land und die dortigen Impressionen wie die Charaktere und Typen an Bord. Natürlich ist es ein pittoreskes Ensemble, angefangen von einem mysteriösen Häftling, der nachts in Ketten seinen Rundgang an Deck macht, über den Millionär, der wegen einer Krankheit in die koloniale Zivilisation gebracht werden soll, den Musiker Mazappa, der alle Passagiere durchschaut, das Leben gesehen hat und sich an der Formalität und dem Luxus von Sidney Betchets Klarinetten-Soli ergötzt oder dem zeylonesischen Englischlehrer, der sein letztes Geld zusammengekratzt hat, um in das Land zu kommen, das ihm als Wiege hoher Poesie gilt. Ondaatje fertigt nie mehr als kleine Skizzen, die er lose miteinander verbindet, die jedoch in keinerlei Chronologie zu fassen sind. Dadurch gelingt es ihm, schon durch das Formale die Ambiguität der hier auf dem Schiff mit dem Namen Oronsay Versammelten zu beschreiben. Sie kommen aus der geographischen wie sozialen Heterogenität der zeylonesischen Welt und sind auf dem Weg in eine noch komplexere, in der sich gerade in den fünfziger Jahren des XX. Jahrhunderts Migranten aus dem ehemaligen Weltreich anzusiedeln begannen und sowohl etablierten als auch untergingen. Ondaatje selbst, niederindisch-tamilisch-singhalesischer Herkunft, sollte nur bis 1996 in London bleiben und dann eine neue Heimat im nicht kolonialen, konkordanten Kanada suchen und finden, wo er bis heute lebt. Die kurz gefassten, teils pointierten, teils fraglichen Geschichten, die aus der Perspektive des Katzentisches erzählt werden, hinterlassen einen tiefen Eindruck, weil sie nichts beschönigen und glorifizieren und weil sie daher dem Leben so nah sind. Da plötzlich Schlüsselerlebnisse genauso am Bewusstsein vorbei wie das Graue und Profane und neben dem Interesse an dem Erlebnis eines Heranwachsenden kommt da plötzlich Wesentliches über die Tücken inter-kultureller Migration und über das Exil. Das Buch birgt Gefahren, denn aufgrund der gebotenen Erzählweise des Autors kann man der Versuchung erliegen, es episodisch unterhaltsam zu konsumieren und nur hohe Aufmerksamkeit kann davor bewahren, diesen Fehler zu machen. Viele Botschaften sind durch die Leichtigkeit des Narrativen verschlüsselt.

Kurzbeschreibung 'What had there been before such a ship in my life? A dugout canoe on a river journey? A launch in Trincomalee harbour? There were always fishing boats on our horizon. But I could never imagine the grandeur of this castle that was to cross the sea'. In the early 1950s, an eleven-year-old boy boards a huge liner in Colombo bound for

England. At mealtimes he is seated at the lowly 'cat's table' - as far from the Captain's table as can be - with a ragtag group of adults and two other boys, Cassius and Ramadhin. As the ship crosses the Indian Ocean the boys tumble from one adventure to another, and at night they spy on a shackled prisoner - his crime and fate a mystery that will haunt them forever... Pressestimmen #1 Macleans Bestseller #1 Globe Mail Bestseller A Globe and Mail Best Book A New York Times Notable Book LONGLIST 2013 IMPAC Dublin Literary Award A tour de force....startling, enchanting. Maclean's Ondaatje slowly unravels a tapestry of images and dramatic (and exotic) tableaux. [He] creates fascinating visual and sensual effects. Toronto Star Ondaatje's most intimate yet.... Wonderful, offering all the best pleasures of Ondaatje's writing. Globe and Mail Ondaatje's most accessible, compelling novel to date. It may also be his finest... A breathtaking account not only of boyhood, but of its loss.... Universal in its themes, heartbreakingly so, and a journey the reader will never forget. Vancouver Sun, (Ottawa Citizen, Calgary Herald) Ondaatje here fashions an entire world. Is there a novelist who writes more compellingly about tenderness than Ondaatje?... Breathtaking. Montreal Gazette A convincing and genuinely moving narrative. National Post Michael Ondaatje wows with his tale of three boys who find friendship and intrigue on a sea voyage carrying them to the brink of adulthood. Chatelaine The mystery and magic of *The Cats Table* and this can be said of all of Ondaatje's writing, including his best-known novel, *The English Patient* (1992) lies in its sinuous narrative weave between present, past and a future sometimes contemplated, sometimes fated, and then always inhabited. As the latest of Ondaatje's artful and glowing geographies and histories of the human heart, this vessel makes another, differently disposed, but related voyage across several strangely familiar seas. Winnipeg Free Press A story so enveloping and beautifully rendered, one is reluctant to disembark at the end of the journey. Though the ocean journey in *The Cats Table* lasts a mere 21 days, it encapsulates the fullness of a lifetime. Quill and Quire [Ondaatje] is justly recognised as a master of literary craft. As we read into *The Cats Table* the story becomes more complex, more deadly, with an increasing sense of lives twisted awry, of misplaced devotion. The novel tells of a journey from childhood to the adult world, as well as a passage from the homeland to another country. All that was seen and experienced, is carried ashore by the passengers in memories, damaged psyches, degrees of loss, evanescent joy and reordered lives. Annie Proulx, *The Guardian* No one who has read a novel or poem by Ondaatje can easily forget its powerful imagery. His wondrous prose feels more alive to the world than ever before. Financial Times Three children mapping the hidden regions of a floating world a world of displaced people, of travelers between lands. *The Cats Table* deserves to be recognized for the beauty and poetry of its writing: pages that lull you with their carefully constructed rhythm, sailing you effortlessly from chapter to chapter and leaving you bereft when forced to disembark at the novel's end. The Telegraph (UK) Ondaatje's great achievement is demonstrating that fiction can be stranger than truth. The Spectator (UK) An eloquent, elegiac tribute to the game of youth and how it shapes what follows. Sheer brilliance of characterization on show. The bit players on board *The Oronsay* are almost Dickensian in their eccentricity and lovability.. Ondaatje has created a beautiful and poetic study here of what it means to have your very existence metaphorically, as well as literally, at sea. The Independent on Sunday (UK) *The Cats Table* is an exquisite example of the richness that can flourish in the gaps between fact and fiction. It is an adventure story, it is a meditation on power, memory, art, childhood, love and loss. It displays a technique so formidable as to seem almost playful. It is one of those rare books that one could reread an infinite number of times, and always find something new within its pages. London Evening Standard In a novel superbly poised between the magic of innocence and the melancholy of experience, Mr. Ondaatje probes what it means to have a cautious heart. The Economist *The Cat's Table* shimmers with the freshness of a child's wide-eyed and openhearted perspective. a yearning tribute with an almost fairytale-like aura to the memories of awe that pervade our dreams (and nightmares and fears), and the memories of sometimes unlikely affiliation and love and what we mistake as love that pervade and haunt our hearts, guide us or sometimes lead us astray. Bookgaga (blog) Pressestimmen Wondrous. . . . A new form of literary magic. The San Francisco Chronicle Mesmerizing. . . . As he did in his great novel, *The English Patient*, Ondaatje conjures images that pull strangers into the vivid rooms of his imagination, their detail illumined by his words. The New York Times Book Lithe and quietly profound: a tale about the magic of adolescence and the passing strangers who help tip us into adulthood in ways we don't become aware of until much later. The Washington Post Enthralling and poignant. . . . A captivating reminder that it can take decades to comprehend the past, let alone to make amends with it. The Seattle Times To capture truly any moment of life is an achievement of art. To find captured, in a single work, such disparate experiences of youth and age, of action and reflection, of innocence and experience is a rare pleasure. If each of Ondaatje's novels is like a new flower, then this one smells particularly sweet. Claire Messud, *The New York of Books* For my money, Michael Ondaatje is the greatest living writer in the English language. . . . The wide-eyed love of the world and its wonders, the kindness he offers to his characters and readers, the elegant lyricism of his sentences, the joy of storytelling all that is great in his other books is fully present in *The Cats Table*. . . . Mr. Ondaatje restores belief in the beauty and power of literature and, by extension, of humanity. In this dark, terrible world, *The Cats Table* has healing powers. Aleksandar Hemon, *WSJ.com* Ondaatje teaches us that the most marvelous sights are those most often overlooked. It's a lesson that turns this supple story, like the meals at the cat's table, into a feast. Los Angeles Times A lovely, shimmering book. . . . Ondaatje succeeds so well in capturing the anticipation and inquisitiveness of boyhood. Janet Maslin, *The New York Times* A great master may have written his finest book in a long career of fine

books. Alan Heathcock, Salon Ondaatje brings all his literary trademarks to *The Cats Table*, from luminous prose to an amazing sense of economy. He makes every character, image and line resonate like a tuning fork. . . . Elegant and elegiac, *The Cats Table* is the authors most intimate work. The Miami Herald Michael Ondaatje has written some of the most inimitable works in the English language; *The Cat's Table* yet again dignifies literature in every important way possible. This novel is a completely original orchestration of a coming-of-age story, memoir, maritime adventure as powerful as Conrad or Stevenson. The lyricism of the prose is astonishing. Howard Norman, *The Globe and Mail* (Toronto) A gorgeous piece of writing. . . . Ondaatje has always been capable of conjuring up mesmerizing images to draw in a reader, but with *The Cats Table* he holds back just enough so the lyricism doesnt overwhelm the story. The Christian Science Monitor A joy and a lark to read. . . . *The Cats Table* expertly strums the cords of autobiography without overdoing it. As a result [the book] vibrates with the borrowed intimacy of real life. The Boston Globe Masterful. . . . Haunting and seductive. The Philadelphia Inquirer Elegant and beautiful . . . As in *Anils Ghost*, *The Cats Table* employs a deceptively light touch, hiding a carefully constructed and tender hymn to the enigma of journey. The Independent (London) *The Cats Table* is just as skillfully wrought as Ondaatjes magnum opus [*The English Patient*], but its picaresque childhood adventure gives it a special power and intimacy. . . . He is a master at creating characters, whom he chooses to present, memorably, as individuals. This choice is of a piece with the freshness and originality that are the hallmarks of *The Cats Table*. The Wall Street Journal Impressive. . . . Wonderful. . . . The beauty of Ondaatjes writing is in its swift accuracy; it sings with the simple precision of the gaze. . . . Richly enjoyable, often very funny, and gleams like a really smart liner on a sunny day. Philip Hensher, *The Daily Telegraph* (London) Ondaatje couldnt write a banal sentence if he tried. . . . On its surface, *The Cats Table* may be a magically real reworking of a classic boys adventure tale. Deep down, it has the poignancy of a lifes summation. Pico Iyer, *Time* Mr. Ondaatjes greatest talents lie in simply constructed, minimalist descriptions. His images are so meticulously created that the most obvious statements present themselves as sublime realizations. He doesnt disappoint. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Ondaatje is justly recognized as a master of literary craft. . . . The novel tells of a journey from childhood to the adult world, as well as a passage from the homeland to another country, something of a Dantean experience. Annie Proulx, *The Guardian* (UK) Michael Ondaatje never writes the same book twice [though] what remains constant is precise, luminous language. . . . Ondaatjes vision, though dark, is unfailingly generous and humane. The Oregonian Elegant, evocative. . . . Whatever its autobiographical roots, theres a strong sense that this story one with echoes of Conrad and Kipling is a tale Michael Ondaatje someday was destined to tell. Its a pleasure for us, his readers, to share in that telling. Bookreporter.com [Ondaatjes] sentences have a sonorous capacity, a soft but urgent tone that coaxes rather than demands attention. Acrobatics are eschewed for a supple, precise flexibility. Its a gift shared by other English-language writers who spent significant time surrounded by diverse tongues: E.M. Forster, for example, and Graham Greene. The Denver Post