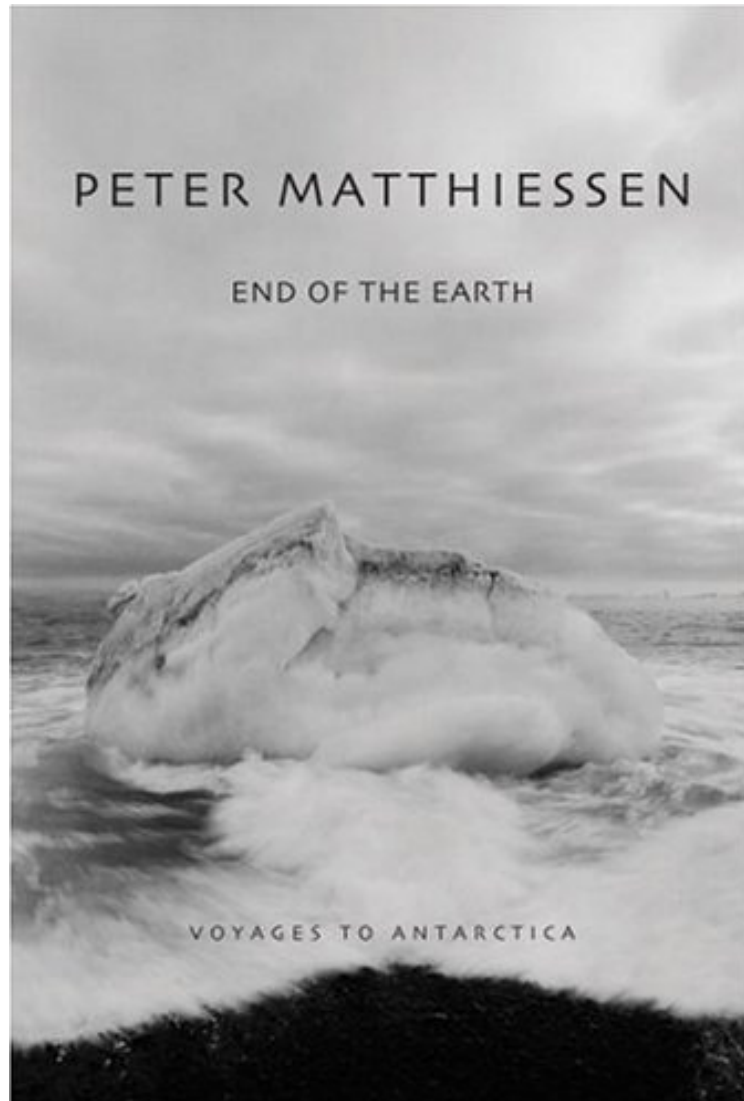


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## End of the Earth: Voyages To Antarctica

*Peter Matthiessen*

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#1517116 in Books National Geographic 2003-09-01 2003-09-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.30 x .90 x 6.20l, 1.11 #File Name: 0792250591288 pages | File size: 71.Mb

**Peter Matthiessen : End of the Earth: Voyages 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: Voyages To Antarctica:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Peter Mathiessen End of the Earth: Voyages to AntarcticaBy oldcatThe book came in very good condition. Love to read books about Antarctica and this one turned out to be a very interesting read.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Just like being back there.By Son of FrankI bought the book to give to friends after reading it and being so very positively impressed with it. Mattheissen is a gifted observer and writer8 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Appalling!By Ann OlsenI recently returned

from South Georgia/Antarctica and immediately ordered Peter Matthiessen's book. In his very first sentence is an error so great (Punta Arenas, located in Argentina) that I suddenly found myself searching for further errors. YES--I found them and I'm only on page 31!! Still--I will finish the book and probably find some enjoyment from it, if only that I want deeper conversation about a wilderness I came to love.

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

From Publishers Weekly Attempts by humans to surmount nature at its most expansive and inhospitable is an almost guaranteed home-run story arc. But Matthiessen (The Snow Leopard, etc.) uses a clinical, detached voice to narrate his epic treks to Antarctica, making what should be a gripping page-turner a bland yawn. It's not his fault that a wicked storm limited his journey to the White South, disrupting the natural apex of the trip's trajectory. But Matthiessen would have been more effective in conveying the magnitude of his experiences if he had used words-not latitude and longitude coordinates-to narrate the action. He vaguely compensates for his stoicism by liberally citing and quoting from his Antarctic forebears, especially Ernest Shackleton and Roald Amundsen. This historical context is appreciated, particularly after slogging through languorous descriptions of animals, objects and elements that lack personification (a necessary tool when making "nature" the subject, protagonist and plot line of a book). Statements like, "Birds call us into the moment," made by an associate of Matthiessen's (but equally indicative of Matthiessen's philosophy) are not evocative hallmarks of the Antarctic quest, one of the most complex, majestic and challenging journeys that exist. Although he succeeds in prioritizing nature over narrative arc, it remains frustrating that such an accomplished author would not, in his 27th book, find a way to liven up antiseptic observations of albatrosses and hurricanes with an expansive, emotive voice befitting the scope of his travels. 8-page color photo insert not seen by PW. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist The grand master of the purposeful and philosophical nature-oriented travelogue, Matthiessen chronicles the attainment of a lifelong dream in his eighteenth work of nonfiction: two voyages to Antarctica. The first time out, Matthiessen and company explore the coast of South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula, where he is enthralled by the grace and fortitude of albatrosses and petrels, stalwart chin-strap penguins, and stoic seals. Contemplation of these amazing creatures leads to ruminations over our species' crimes against them, just as his poetic marveling over the majestic beauty of icebergs and their enshrinement of "bubbles of pure ancient air" and "the last uncontaminated water on the planet's surface" leads to strongly stated objections to the U.S. government's failure to combat global warming. On his second voyage, this time aboard a polar icebreaker, Matthiessen visits emperor penguin breeding colonies, a phenomenon few ornithologists have witnessed, and describes with arresting lyricism the spiritual cleansing one experiences in this pristine, wind-scoured kingdom of ice. Vivid and empathic accounts of the high drama and petty rivalries of Antarctic exploration alternate with Matthiessen's own adventures as he shares his indelible impressions of this cold, white wonderland in the hope that they will inspire readers to appreciate the beauty and bounty of the earth's "shimmering web of biodiversity" enough to defend and preserve it. Donna Seaman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved About the Author Peter Matthiessen (1927-2014) was an American writer and naturalist who famously cofounded The Paris 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 Hxter, 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](http://birgitbateman.com).