

The Road



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著者:Cormac McCarthy

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The Road follows an unnamed father and son journeying together across a grim post-apocalyptic landscape, some years after a great, unexplained cataclysm has destroyed civilization and almost all life on Earth. Realizing that they will not survive another winter in their unspecified original location, the father leads the boy south, through a desolate American landscape along a vacant highway, towards the sea, sustained only by the vague hope of finding warmth and more "good guys" like them, and carrying with them only what is on their backs and what will fit into a damaged supermarket cart.

The setting is very cold, dark and filled with ash and the land is devoid of living vegetation. There is frequent rain or snow, and electrical storms are common. Many of the remaining human survivors are cannibalistic gangs or nomads, scavenging the detritus of city and country alike for human flesh, though that too is almost entirely depleted.

Overwhelmed by this desperate and apparently hopeless situation, the boy's mother, pregnant with him at the time of the cataclysm, commits suicide when the boy is about five or six; the rationality and calmness of her act being her last "great gift" to the man

and the boy. The father coughs blood every morning and eventually realizes he is dying, yet still struggles to protect his son from the constant threats of attack, exposure, and starvation. The revolver they carry, meant for protection or suicide if necessary, has only one round for the entire story. The boy has been told to use it on himself if capture is imminent, to spare himself the horror of death at the hands of the cannibals.

In the face of these obstacles, the man and the boy have only each other. They repeatedly assure one another that they are "the good guys," who are "carrying the fire." On their journey, the duo scrounge for food, encounter roving bands of cannibals, and contend with horrors such as a newborn infant being roasted on a spit, and people being kept captive as they are slowly harvested for food. The vast majority of the book is written in the third person, with references to "the father" and "the son" or to "the man" and "the boy."

Although the man and the boy eventually reach the sea, neither the climate nor availability of food has improved. The man succumbs to an illness and dies, leaving the boy alone, though not long before he dies, the father tells the boy that he can continue to speak with him in his imagination after he is gone. The boy holds wake over his father's corpse for three days, with no idea of what he is to do next. On the third day, the grieving boy encounters a man who has been tracking the father and son. This man, who has a woman and two children of his own, a boy and a girl, invites him to join his family after convincing the boy that he is indeed one of the "good guys" like the boy and his dead father. A brief epilogue following meditates on nature and infinity in this altered environment.

作者介绍:

Cormac McCarthy is an American novelist and playwright. He has written ten novels in the Southern Gothic, western, and post-apocalyptic genres and has also written plays and screenplays. He received the Pulitzer Prize in 2007 for *The Road*, and his 2005 novel *No Country for Old Men* was adapted as a 2007 film of the same name, which won four Academy Awards, including Best Picture.

His earlier *Blood Meridian* (1985) was among Time Magazine's poll of 100 best English-language books published between 1925 and 2005 and he placed joint runner-up for a similar title in a poll taken in 2006 by The New York Times of the best American fiction published in the last 25 years. Literary critic Harold Bloom named him as one of the four major American novelists of his time, along with Thomas Pynchon, Don DeLillo, and Philip Roth. He is frequently compared by modern reviewers to William Faulkner.

In 2009, Cormac McCarthy won the PEN/Saul Bellow Award, a lifetime achievement award given by the PEN American Center.

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评论

绝望啊，黑暗啊，但也仅此而已。

以极致的绝望衬托希望的经典。

凌晨3点-7点失眠于是把这本书听完~~~很有The Walking Dead这类僵尸片的风格，大冬天很不适合听，越听越冷。

第二本CORMAC，风格好彻底。有够绝望的，除了ash就是ash，没有光没有生命的声音，只有彼此的父子，好寂寞。看到中段是有点无聊，想说这种在折磨中生存，时刻恐惧着的日子哪里是个头。第一次遇到那一堆暴行的奴隶主的场景好惊心动魄啊。结尾好伤

心。真希望男孩遇上的是好人。Are you carrying the fire?世界末日后我肯定是活不下来的。

中文版中文版快来~~~~读不下去不读了

A page-turner

对话真的不能再赞

读完很久那种末日绝望还无法从心中散去。如果我是那个孩子，陪伴父亲是唯一向下走的动力。

我们对于未来的沉思，对于毁灭的感伤

I'm impressed by the way McCarthy makes the text itself a landscape as bleak and barren as what the father and son encounter on their road.

扣人心弦!

寒冷的冬夜读完

妈妈推荐的

feel the real horror and hell-like world. really make my heart jump! and almost jerk my

tears out. he really knows how to influence people's emotion! ps: linkage with the earlier tradition, city on a hill, caring the fire

这么无聊的书最后居然看哭了

too compelling to handle.

Cormac的故事里存在一种纯粹，以及与之对应的人类情绪。老无所依里是毫无动机的杀意，以及老警察的无助。The Road里是晦暗焦枯的末世，以及父子二人的挣扎相依。简单又极具画面感的文字，克制却又拳拳到肉的情绪描写，让人在毫无希望的末世穿行里，感到贯穿始终的不安和忐忑，如明明手捧冰块，却渴望冰块折射阳光的温暖，是种令人印象深刻的阅读体验。

My heart, My heart.

誰來吃我？我可以犧牲。

剧情简单易懂，比较丧。

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书评

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