



The North Water: A Novel

Ian McGuire

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"John Keating is the perfect narrator for this story...It is by itself a compelling tale; Keating's performance gives it another dimension and makes it riveting."--*AudioFile Magazine*

"*The North Water*...is a great white shark of a book ? swift, terrifying, relentless and unstoppable."
?Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times*

"Riveting and darkly brilliant....*The North Water* feels like the result of an encounter between Joseph Conrad and Cormac McCarthy in some run-down port as they offer each other a long, sour nod of recognition."

?Colm Toibin, *The New York Times Book Review*

"[An] audacious work of historical suspense fiction...It's the poetic precision of McGuire's harsh vision of the past that makes his novel such a standout...absolutely transporting."

?Maureen Corrigan, NPR's *Fresh Air*

A *New York Times Book Review* Editors' Choice

A nineteenth-century whaling ship sets sail for the Arctic with a killer aboard in this dark, sharp, and highly original tale that grips like a thriller.

Behold the man: stinking, drunk, and brutal. Henry Drax is a harpooner on the *Volunteer*, a Yorkshire whaler bound for the rich hunting waters of the arctic circle. Also aboard for the first time is Patrick Sumner, an ex-army surgeon with a shattered reputation, no money, and no better option than to sail as the ship's medic on this violent, filthy, and ill-fated voyage.

In India, during the Siege of Delhi, Sumner thought he had experienced the depths to which man can stoop. He had hoped to find temporary respite on the *Volunteer*, but rest proves impossible with Drax on board. The discovery of something evil in the hold rouses Sumner to action. And as the confrontation between the two men plays out amid the freezing darkness of an arctic winter, the fateful question arises: who will survive until spring?

With savage, unstoppable momentum and the blackest wit, Ian McGuire's *The North Water* weaves a superlative story of humanity under the most extreme conditions.

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