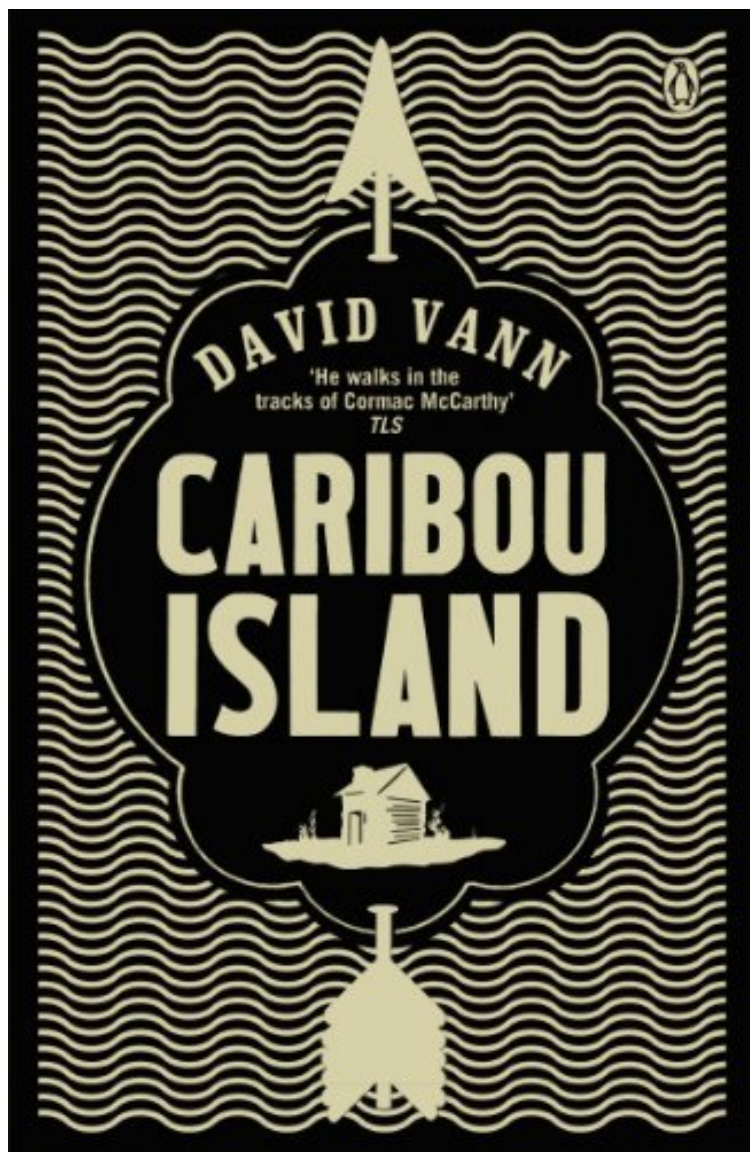


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Caribou Island



Par David Vann
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Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurOn a small island in a glacier-fed lake on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula, a marriage is unravelling. Gary, driven by thirty years of diverted plans, and Irene, haunted by a tragedy in her past, are trying to rebuild their life together. Following the outline of Gary's old dream, they're hauling logs out to Caribou Island in good weather and in terrible storms, in sickness and in health, to patch together the kind of cabin that drew them to Alaska in the first place. Across the water on the mainland, Irene and Gary's grown daughter, Rhoda is starting her own life. She fantasizes about the perfect wedding day, whilst her betrothed, Jim the dentist, wonders about the possibility of an altogether different future.From the author of the massively-acclaimed Legend of a Suicide, comes a devastating novel about a marriage, a couple blighted by

past shadows and the weight of expectation, of themselves and of each other. Brilliantly drawn and fiercely honest in its depiction of love and disappointment, David Vann's first novel confirms him as one of America's most dazzling writers of fiction. *Revue de presse* Caribou Island gets to places other novels cant touch. . . . Though it wears the clothes of realism the beautiful exactness of the language, the unerring eye for detail it takes us someplace darker, older, more powerful than the daylight world. (Kevin Canty, New York Times Book) Vanns beautiful, spare portrait of a marriages end casts a singular spell. (People) Caribou Island builds to an horrific climax and stands as an engrossing and disturbing work of art. (Alan Cheuse, NPR) Legend earned him the acclaim of being one of the best writers of his generation. His first novel is a worthy successor. . . . Caribou Island gives us a climax as haunting and realized as any in recent fiction. (Wayne Harrison, San Francisco Chronicle) Moving, powerful . . . Vanns people are hurtling irretrievably toward a dark outcome, and while putting the book down might save you from it, you cant stop reading, just as you cant unlearn its truths. (Caitlin Roper, Los Angeles Times) Vann forces us to watch, to pay attention. He refuses to provide his characters or us with an easy, happy resolution. Instead, he gives us something much more valuable: an unflinching portrait of what can happen to lives when hopes and ambitions wander off, get lost, and surrender to the merciless cold. (Kevin Grauke, Philadelphia Inquirer) Both [Caribou Island and Legend of a Suicide] are intense tragedies set against an unforgiving landscape. Both are delivered in clear, lyric prose. . . . Vann isnt delivering happy endings, but he is delivering life in crystalline, unforgettable prose. (Robin Vidimos, Denver Post) Vann is a poet of the animal swings between men and women struggling for the upper hand. (Karen R. Long, Cleveland Plain Dealer) Compelling. As the plot moves toward a gruesome finale, the reader is submerged in slow waves of pressure, water compacting but no edge to it. (New Yorker) [Vann] has come fully into his own voice, from the striking opening scene to the fateful final sentence. . . . An oddly exhilarating horror story in which human demons spring from the smoke of their own disappointment and regret. Caribou Island earns Vann a seat beside the masters. A+ (Sheerly Avni, San Francisco Magazine) Transfixing and unflinching. . . . Full of finely realized moments. . . . Comparison with Cormac McCarthy is fully justified. (Toby Lichtig, Times Literary Supplement (London)) Greatness has arrived: Caribou Island is a powerful first novel of love, lust, and regret set on an island near Soldotna, a fishing town on Alaskas Kenai Peninsula. . . . Vann slowly and quietly builds the drama toward an emotional gut-punch of an ending think Cormac McCarthy on ice. (Outside Magazine) [Vann uses] American landscape as a metaphor to tremendous effect. . . . Vanns brilliance as a writer lies in his willingness to expose everything. . . . A writer to read and reread; a man to watch carefully. (The Economist) An existential page-turner and literary breakthrough. . . . The novels primal power, moral depth, and narrative command show the author making a big leap. (Don McLeese, Kirkus s) A taut and riveting study of isolation, insanity, and violence. (Bret Anthony Johnston, Men's Journal) The readers awareness of real deaths, real griefs, gives his work something of the lethal intensity of handling an unsheathed knife: at times the power is exhilarating, and at other times it cuts bloodily and to the quick. (Olivia Laing, New Statesman) Bleak, beautifully written and bitterly funny. . . . What really distinguishes Vanns work is his feel for his wintry setting. . . . But he is, oddly, just as memorable when describing a soul-crushing afternoon at the local fish cannery. (Jake Kerridge, Financial Times) Compared to Caribou Island, The Road is grim-lit lite. . . . Welcome to Vanns demon land. (Ian Sansom, London of Books) Reaffirms Vann as a talented conjurer of the natural world, and of our nakedness in the face of its power and cruel impassivity. (Ian Crouch, New Republic) Caribou Island is a beautiful, richly atmospheric if unsettling novel, and deserves to consolidate Vanns position among Americas literary high flyers. (Melanie McGrath, London Evening Standard) Beautifully gloomy. Compelling. [Caribou Island] triumphs in its juxtaposition of claustrophobia-inducing relationships against the forbidding vastness of our 49th state. Vann uses chiseled phrases and verb-less declarations to evoke the natural ruggedness of the setting as well as the characters emotional distress. (Tyrone Beason, Seattle Times) As bleak as an Alaskan winter, but it also wields an unforgiving, elemental power that is breathtaking to read. (Doug Johnstone, Independent (UK)) Vann summons an atmosphere of terrestrial and emotional permafrost so intense that itll freeze your bones. (Lee Randall, Scotsman) Arguably the first literary masterpiece to take place on the Kenai Peninsula. . . . Like a macabre machine, the narrative ratchets ever tighter until the closing image of one final, forlorn hope that will be smashed as soon as the story-telling stops and the reader closes the book. (Mike Dunham, Anchorage Daily News) Vann keeps the pages turning with the skill of the best mystery novelists. (Patrick Condon, Associated Press) Its rare when a fiction writer of extraordinary literary merit is equally brilliant in both the short story and novel forms. David Vann is a dazzling exception. Vann knows the darkness but he writes from the compassionate light of art. This is an

essential book. (Robert Olen Butler, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain*) In this exceptional first novel by the celebrated author of *Legend of a Suicide*, an oncoming Alaska winter becomes metaphor as a troubled marriage moves implacably toward a bleak reckoning.

Caribou Island is an unflinching portrait of bad faith and bad dreams. (Ron Rash, author of *Burning Bright*) Vann's brilliance lies in his willingness to expose all. . . . Desolate, violent, heartbreaking. . . . A striking novel filled with the violence borne of a bitter life. (Kirkus's (Starred)) Expect to have to stop and think now and then as answers may be hard to find, but the questions are everywhere. Read it and be prepared to expand your mind. (The Daily Post (New Zealand))

Présentation de l'auteur On a small island in a glacier-fed lake on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula, a marriage is unravelling. Gary, driven by thirty years of diverted plans, and Irene, haunted by a tragedy in her past, are trying to rebuild their life together. Following the outline of Gary's old dream, they're hauling logs out to Caribou Island in good weather and in terrible storms, in sickness and in health, to patch together the kind of cabin that drew them to Alaska in the first place. Across the water on the mainland, Irene and Gary's grown daughter, Rhoda is starting her own life. She fantasizes about the perfect wedding day, whilst her betrothed, Jim the dentist, wonders about the possibility of an altogether different future. From the author of the massively-acclaimed *Legend of a Suicide*, comes a devastating novel about a marriage, a couple blighted by past shadows and the weight of expectation, of themselves and of each other. Brilliantly drawn and fiercely honest in its depiction of love and disappointment, David Vann's first novel confirms him as one of America's most dazzling writers of fiction.