



## The Crossing (The Border Trilogy, Book 2)

By Cormac McCarthy

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In **The Crossing**, Cormac McCarthy fulfills the promise of **All the Pretty Horses** and at the same time give us a work that is darker and more visionary, a novel with the unstoppable momentum of a classic western and the elegaic power of a lost American myth.

In the late 1930s, sixteen-year-old Billy Parham captures a she-wolf that has been marauding his family's ranch. But instead of killing it, he decides to take it back to the mountains of Mexico. With that crossing, he begins an arduous and often dreamlike journey into a country where men meet ghosts and violence strikes as suddenly as heat-lightning--a world where there is no order "save that which death has put there."

An essential novel by any measure, **The Crossing** is luminous and appalling, a book that touches, stops, and starts the heart and mind at once.

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## The Crossing (The Border Trilogy, Book 2) By Cormac McCarthy Bibliography

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## **Editorial Review**

### Amazon.com Review

The opening section of *The Crossing*, book two of the Border Trilogy, features perhaps the most perfectly realized storytelling of Cormac McCarthy's celebrated career. Like *All the Pretty Horses*, this volume opens with a teenager's decision to slip away from his family's ranch into Mexico. In this case, the boy is Billy Parham, and the catalyst for his trip is a wolf he and his father have trapped, but that Billy finds himself unwilling to shoot. His plan is to set the animal loose down south instead.

This is a McCarthy novel, not *Old Yeller*, and so Billy's trek inevitably becomes more ominous than sweet. It boasts some chilling meditations on the simple ferocity McCarthy sees as necessary for all creatures who aim to continue living. But Billy is McCarthy's most loving--and therefore damageable--character, and his story has its own haunted melancholy.

Billy eventually returns to his ranch. Then, finding himself and his world changed, he returns to Mexico with his younger brother, and the book begins meandering. Though full of hypnotically barren landscapes and McCarthy's trademark western-gothic imagery (like the soldier who sucks eyes from sockets), these latter stages become tedious at times, thanks partly to the female characters, who exist solely as ghosts to haunt the men.

But that opening is glorious, and the whole book finally transcends its shortcomings to achieve a grim and poignant grandeur. --*Glen Hirshberg*

### From Publishers Weekly

This second volume of McCarthy's Border Trilogy--an 11-week PW bestseller--follows two teenage boys across the American Southwest and Mexico in the years before WWII.

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### From Library Journal

Sixteen-year-old Billy Parham is obsessed with trapping a renegade wolf that has crossed the border from Mexico to raid his father's cattle ranch. By the time he finally succeeds, Billy has formed such a close bond with his prey that he decides to return the wolf to its home, and the two head off into the mountains. Billy returns months later to find that his parents have been murdered by horse thieves. He abducts his kid brother from a foster home, and they ride into Mexico to retrieve their property, encountering gypsies, desperadoes, and itinerant philosophers along the way. Essentially a boy's adventure story written for adults, *The Crossing* is thematically related to the award-winning bestseller *All The Pretty Horses* (LJ 5/15/92; "Best Books of 1992," LJ 1/93, p. 54-58.), but it is not a sequel. McCarthy's luminous prose style, spare as the desert landscapes it describes, is almost Beckett-like in its blend of deadpan humor and existential despair. An exceptionally vivid and rewarding novel.

--*Edward B. St. John, Loyola Law Sch. Lib., Los Angeles*

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## **Users Review**

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**Kelsey Palermo:**

As people who live in the actual modest era should be update about what going on or info even knowledge to make them keep up with the era that is certainly always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe will update themselves by examining books. It is a good choice to suit your needs but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know what one you should start with. This The Crossing (The Border Trilogy, Book 2) is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and need in this era.

**Timothy Payne:**

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**Joseph Griego:**

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**Rachel Glidewell:**

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