

# Read Book Sweetland Michael Crummey

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Crummey Writing Wednesday 77 Book  
Talk: Galore Shawn the Book Maniac  
reviews The Innocents by Michael  
Crummey The Innocents by Michael  
Crummey Sweetland Michael Crummey  
"We have Rex and Charlie walking up to  
confront the bad guys" The director of  
Hudson & Rex describes the next shot  
while filming on location in the  
Georgetown neighbourhood of St. John's  
in ...

Hello, Hollywood East: Film and TV  
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Hudson & Rex describes the next shot  
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Georgetown neighbourhood of St. John's  
in September ...

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The epic tale of an endangered Newfoundland community and the struggles of one man determined to resist its extinction. The scarcely populated town of Sweetland clings to the shore of a remote Canadian island. Its slow decline has finally reached a head, with the mainland government offering each islander a generous resettlement package—the only stipulation being that everyone must leave. Fierce and enigmatic Moses Sweetland, whose ancestors founded the island, is determined to refuse. As one by one his neighbors relent, he recalls the town's rugged history and its eccentric cast of characters. For fans of *The Shipping News*, Michael Crummey's prose conjures up the mythical, sublime world of Sweetland's past amid a storm-battered landscape haunted by local lore. In a spare style that belies "huge emotional depth and heart" (Celeste Ng, author of

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Everything I Never Told You), Crummey masterfully weaves together the past and present, creating in Sweetland a spectacular portrait of one man's battle to survive as his world vanishes around him. Winner of Newfoundland Book Award Short-listed for the Governor's General Award Winner of the CBC Bookie Award for Fiction Finalist for the Winterset Prize

For twelve generations, the inhabitants of a remote island in Newfoundland have lived and died together. Now, in the second decade of the 21st century, they are facing resettlement. They have each been offered a generous compensation package to leave the island for good. There's just one proviso: everyone must go. Gradually, all of the residents surrender to the inevitable. All of the residents, that is, but one: old Moses Sweetland. Motivated in part by a sense of history and belonging,

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and concerned that his somewhat eccentric great-nephew will wilt on the mainland, Moses resists the coercion of family and friends in order to hold onto the only place he's ever called home. As his options dwindle, Moses Sweetland concocts a scheme to remain the island's only living resident. Cut off from the outside world, with the food supply diminishing and weather shredding away the last evidence of human habitation, Sweetland finds himself, finally, in the company of ghosts . . . . Written with incomparable emotional power and depth, Sweetland is a story about loyalty and courage, about the human will to persist even when all hope seems lost.

From the award-winning, bestselling author of Galore comes another unforgettable novel. By turns darkly comic and heartbreakingly sad, Sweetland is a

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deeply suspenseful story about one man's struggles against the forces of nature and the ruins of memory. For twelve generations, when the fish were plentiful and when they all-but disappeared, the inhabitants of this remote island in Newfoundland have lived and died together. Now, in the second decade of the 21st century, they are facing resettlement, and each has been offered a generous compensation package to leave. But the money is offered with a proviso: everyone has to go; the government won't be responsible for one crazy coot who chooses to stay alone on an island. That coot is Moses Sweetland. Motivated in part by a sense of history and belonging, haunted by memories of the short and lonely time he spent away from his home as a younger man, and concerned that his somewhat eccentric great-nephew will wilt on the mainland, Moses refuses to leave.

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But in the face of determined, sometimes violent, opposition from his family and his friends, Sweetland is eventually swayed to sign on to the government's plan. Then a tragic accident prompts him to fake his own death and stay on the deserted island. As he manages a desperately diminishing food supply, and battles against the ravages of weather, Sweetland finds himself in the company of the vibrant ghosts of the former islanders, whose porch lights still seem to turn on at night.

Vom Kampf eines Mannes gegen den Ausverkauf seiner Heimat Seit zwölf Generationen leben und sterben die Bewohner von Sweetland auf der kleinen Insel vor Neufundland. Nun stehen sie plötzlich vor einer Umsiedlung. Der fast siebzigjährige Moses Sweetland weigert sich als Einziger und bleibt auf der nach seinen Vorfahren benannten Insel zurück.

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Abwechselnd düster-komisch und herzerreißend traurig erzählt der kanadische Erfolgsautor Michael Crummey die Überlebensgeschichte eines einsamen Mannes, vermischt mit bittersüßen Erinnerungen an den Niedergang der Traditionen: eine Elegie des Verschwindens, ein Zeugnis des Vergehens.

On a business trip to Tunisia, Preising, a leading Swiss industrialist, is invited to spend the week with the daughter of a local gangster. He accompanies her to the wedding of two London city traders at a desert luxury resort that was once the site of an old Berber oasis. With the wedding party in full swing and the bride riding up the aisle on a camel, no one is aware that the global financial system stands on the brink of collapse. As the wedding guests nurse their hangovers, they learn that the

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British pound has depreciated tenfold, and their world begins to crumble around them. So begins *Barbarian Spring*, the debut novel from Jonas Lüscher, a major emerging voice in European fiction. The timely and unusual novel centers on a culture clash between high finance and the value system of the Maghreb. Provocative and entertaining, *Barbarian Spring* is a refreshingly original and all-too-believable satire for our times.

Sprawling and intimate, stark and fantastical, *Galore* is a novel about the power of stories to shape and sustain us. This is Michael Crummey's most ambitious and accomplished work to date. An intricate family saga and love story spanning two centuries, *Galore* is a portrait of the improbable medieval world that was rural Newfoundland, a place almost too harrowing and extravagant to be real.

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Remote and isolated, exposed to savage extremes of climate and fate, the people of Paradise Deep persist in a realm where the line between the everyday and the otherworldly is impossible to distinguish. Propelled by the disputes and alliances, grievances and trade-offs that bind the Sellers and Devine families through generations, Galore is alive with singular characters, and an uncommon insight into the complexities of human nature.

In elegant, sensual prose, Michael Crummey crafts a haunting tale set in Newfoundland at the turn of the 19th century. A richly imagined story about love, loss and the heartbreaking compromises—both personal and political—that undermine lives, *River Thieves* is a masterful debut novel. Published in Canada and the United States, it joins a wave of classic literature

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from eastern Canada, including the works of Alistair MacLeod, Wayne Johnston and David Adams Richards, while resonating at times with the spirit of Charles Frazier's *Cold Mountain* and Cormac McCarthy's *Border Trilogy*. An enthralling story of passion and suspense, *River Thieves* captures both the vast sweep of history and the intimate lives of a deeply emotional and complex cast of characters caught in its wake.

Having achieved considerable success with his first novel, *River Thieves*, Michael Crummey has written a book that is equally stunning and compelling. *The Wreckage* is a truly epic, yet twisted, romance that unfolds over decades and continents. It engages readers on the austere shores of Newfoundland's fishing villages and drags them across to Japanese POW camps during some of the worst

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events of the Second World War. Haunting, lyrical, and deeply intimate, Crummey's language fully exposes his characters' vulnerabilities as they struggle to come to terms with their guilt and regret over decisions made during their impulsive youths. It is a testament to Crummey's gifts as a novelist that he can flow quite easily through time, across landscapes, and between vastly different characters. He vividly captures the mental and physical anguish experienced in prison camps, and with calm lucidity explores the motives of a Japanese soldier whose actions seem inhumanly cold and calculating. Crummey toys with the readers' sympathies, suggesting there are few distinctions between the enemy and us. He incorporates heartbreaking tragedy—the dropping of the atom bomb, lynchings in America, murderous revenge—to underscore the darker side of

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humanity. Crummey shows that we are capable of violence, but in the end he proves we are also capable of redemption, forgiveness, and can be led, unashamed, back to the ones we love.

Twenty years after the publication of his debut, *Little Dogs: New and Selected Poems* brings together selections from Michael Crummey's first four books of poetry with a significant offering of new work. In this collection, Crummey emerges not only as the master storyteller we know him to be, but also as one of our great poets of connection. Whether reporting from a solitary room or a shared bed, recalling the barbed delirium of adolescence, the subtler negotiations of mature love, or the generational echoes between fathers and sons, these poems are deeply engaged in the business of living with others. Of living with the absence of

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those who have shaped and sometimes scarred us. Unafraid of confronting the darker corners of desire or of digging into the past to make sense of the present, Crummey has already given us a tremendous body of work. *Little Dogs* showcases the evolution of one the most distinct and celebrated Canadian writers of his generation.

From the author of the best-selling, Giller-nominated *River Thieves* comes a heartbreaking and masterful collection of short fiction. With uncommon elegance and compassion, Michael Crummey has created a community of exiles, characters estranged from their home, from their families or, just as often, from themselves. Set largely in the small Newfoundland mining town of Black Rock, but straying as far west as Vancouver and as far east as China, these stories are subtle, stark

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portrayals of people alternately looking for or trying desperately to escape their place in the world. A young boy confuses love and allegiance, then stumbles into the complexities of adulthood; a brother and sister fall in love with the same woman; a frustrated wife protests her husband's neglect by going on strike with the miners' union; a lover's drug habit reunites a woman with the sister she has lost. Anchor Books is proud to publish an expanded edition of Michael Crummey's brilliant collection *Flesh and Blood*, which includes three original stories written just for this edition. Graceful, affecting, and generous of spirit, these stories are unforgettable.

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