

## MICHAEL ONDAATJE THE CAT'S TABLE

READ BY THE AUTHOR

"Ondaatje is able to commingle anguish and seductiveness in fierce, unexpected ways." —JANET MASLIN, the *New York Times*

In the early 1950s, an eleven-year-old boy in Colombo boards a ship bound for England. At mealtimes he is seated at the "cat's table"—as far from the Captain's Table as can be—with a ragtag group of "insignificant" adults and two other boys. As the ship makes its way into the Mediterranean, the boys tumble from one adventure to another. But there are other diversions as well: one man talks with them about jazz and women, another opens the door to the world of literature. The narrator's elusive, beautiful cousin Emily becomes his confidante, allowing him to see himself "with a distant eye" and to feel the first stirring of desire. Another Cat's Table denizen, the shadowy Miss Lasqueti, is perhaps more than what she seems. And very late every night, the boys spy on a shackled prisoner, his crime and his fate a galvanizing mystery that will haunt them forever.

As the narrative moves between the decks and holds of the ship and the boy's adult years, it tells a spellbinding story—by turns poignant and electrifying—about the magical, often forbidden, discoveries of childhood and a lifelong journey that begins unexpectedly with a spectacular sea voyage.



MICHAEL ONDAATJE is the author of five previous novels, a memoir, a nonfiction book on film, and several books of poetry. *The English Patient* won the Booker Prize; *Anil's Ghost* won the Irish Times International Fiction Prize, the Giller Prize, and the Prix Médicis. Visit [www.michaelondaatje.com](http://www.michaelondaatje.com) for more information.

**RANDOM HOUSE**  
**AUDIO**

Running Time: Approx. 7 Hours • Unabridged

Executive Producer: Orli Moscovitz • Director: Scott Sherratt • Jacket photograph by Angela Grauerholz • Original jacket design by Carol Devine Carson • Author photograph: Beowulf Sheehan/PEN American Center • © 2011 by Michael Ondaatje © 2011 Random House, Inc. • Random House Audio, a division of Random House, Inc. 1745 Broadway, New York, New York 10019. RANDOM HOUSE® is a registered trademark of Random House, Inc. [www.randomhouseaudio.com](http://www.randomhouseaudio.com)

PLAYAWAY®

Playaway is a better listening experience combining an easy-to-use player with an entire audiobook.

[WWW.PLAYAWAY.COM](http://WWW.PLAYAWAY.COM)  
© 2011 Playaway. Patented. All rights reserved.  
Designed in Ohio. Made in China.

ISBN 978-161637889-9



9 781616 137889



LIGHT

PLAYAWAY®

MICHAEL ONDAATJE THE CAT'S TABLE

UNABRIDGED

**RANDOM HOUSE**  
**AUDIO**

PLAYAWAY®  
THE ALL-IN-ONE AUDIOBOOK



HD LIGHT

PLAYAWAY® and associated logos are registered trademarks of Findaway World, LLC.  
31999 Aurora Road, Solon, OH 44139 USA