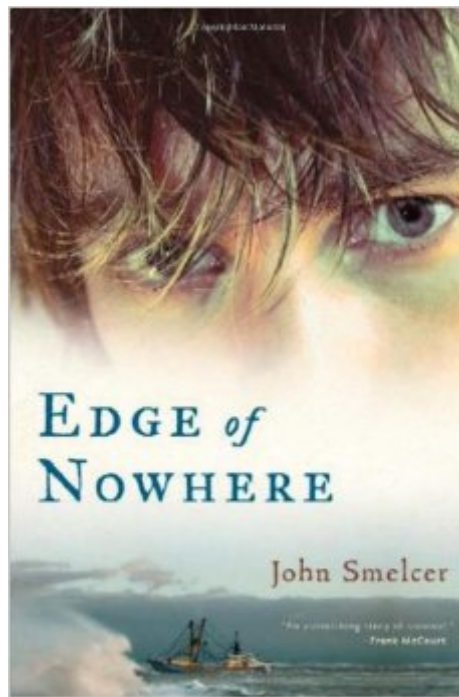


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# Edge Of Nowhere



## Synopsis

"More psychological depth than Robinson Crusoe."&#151;Frank McCourtPraise for Lone Wolves:"A beautiful and moving story of courage and love."&#151;Ray Bradbury"Powerful, eloquent, and fascinating, showcasing a vanishing way of life in rich detail."&#151;Kirkus Reviews"An adept focus on coming-of-age and an illuminating glimpse of Native Alaskan cultures."--The Horn Book"A gifted storyteller with a unique perspective. . . . A breathlessly paced and thrilling ride for readers of all ages."--Cambridge Book ReviewPraise for The Great Death and Alaskan:"Gripping and poignant. . . . Smelcer's prose is clean and rich; original yet unpretentious."&#151;Horn Book, starred review"John Smelcer is Alaska's modern-day Jack London."&#151;W.P. Kinsella"An indispensable contribution to Alaskan literature."&#151;J. D. Salinger"Smelcer speaks from the land, for the land, and the people who belong to it."&#151;Ursula K. Le GuinSixteen-year-old Seth and his dog fall off his father's commercial fishing boat in Prince William Sound. They struggle to survive off land and sea as they work their way home from island to island in a three-month journey. The isolation allows Seth to understand his father's love, accept his Native Alaskan heritage, and accept his grief over his mother's death.John Smelcer is poetry editor of Rosebud and the author of more than forty books. He is an Alaskan native of the Ahtna tribe, and the last tribal member who reads and writes in Ahtna. He divides his time between Talkeetna, Alaska, and Kirksville, Missouri, where he teaches in the department of communications studies at Truman State University.

## Book Information

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Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (13 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #803,801 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #137 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Polar Regions #294 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Cars, Trains & Things That Go > Boats & Ships #319 inÂ Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > 20th Century

Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Grade Level: 6 and up

## Customer Reviews

Edge of Nowhere is set in Prince William Sound, which is located in southern Alaska. The people of Prince William Sound speak an endangered native Alaskan language called Alutiq. It is neat just to be exposed to a new language. Each of the eighteen chapters in this book are prefaced with the Alutiiq number and the corresponding English number. I learned the Alutiiq word for salmon is Igalluk. People earn a living on Prince William Sound by salmon fishing. I like to go to salmon fishing, but I can't imagine doing for a living. John Smelcer establishes that salmon fishing is how people who live on Prince William Sound survive. It pays for the mortgage and the food. It also pays for the crew who work on the boat. I can visualize all the animals that he describes in this book. They are deer, sea otters, black bears and salmon of course. The plot centers around a teenage boy named Seth. He gets hit by a wave, and he goes overboard while on his family fishing boat. He lands on one of the islands in Prince William Sound. I love the way he learns how to survive for months on his own. He crafts a spear with a tree branch . to catch salmon. He also survives by eating mussels and dandelions. He uses the tide currents to literally swim in the direction of his home. It is not often that I admire the traits of a fictional character, but I do admire Seth's courage and survival instincts. The other character is Jack. He is Seth's father. He is determined to do anything to find his son. Edge of Nowhere is very much a coming of age novel. The character of Seth starts the novel as a boy, but he becomes a self reliant young man because of his experience. The theme of a death of a family member is explored in this book.

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