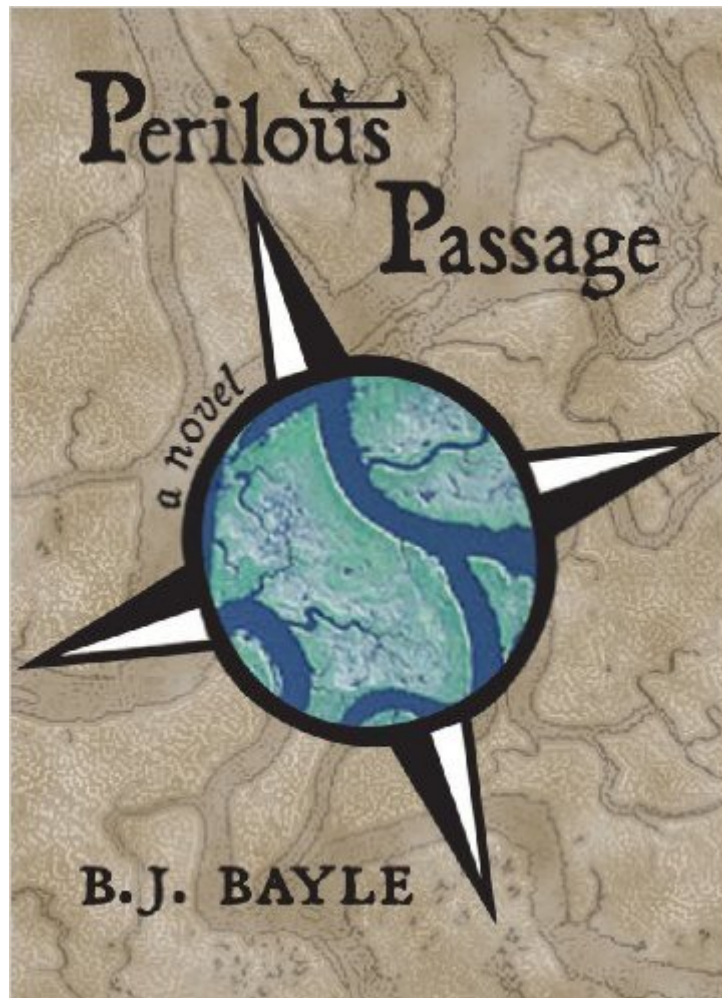


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# Perilous Passage



## Synopsis

Shortlisted for the 2009 Red Maple Award and commended in Best Books for Kids & Teens After a shipwreck in 1809, Peter finds himself the victim of amnesia. The sea captain who finds the teenager gives him the only name he knows, while others derisively dub him Peter No-Name. Eventually, Peter finds employment in a Montreal tavern where he meets a French voyageur called Boulard who changes his life irrevocably. Boulard works for fur trader David Thompson, soon to become one of the world's most famous explorers and mapmakers. Thompson is impressed with the teenager and enlists him in his obsessive quest to establish an overland "northwest" passage to the Pacific Ocean via the Columbia River. With Thompson, Peter embarks on an amazing series of adventures that brings him face to face with hostile Natives and exposes him to the hardships and life-threatening challenges of formidable mountains and primeval forests as the intrepid outdoorsmen canoe, ride, and sled across a continent still largely untouched by European civilization.

## Book Information

Paperback: 184 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.5 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #539,376 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #17 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Canada #31 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Exploration & Discovery #43 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Canada

Age Range: 12 - 15 years

Grade Level: 7 - 10

## Customer Reviews

Perilous Passage by B.J. Baylel was hooked from the first sentence. Who was this boy and why was he being constantly taunted and harrassed by his employer's young sons? As the story of "Peter No-Name" unfolds, we learn of his recent rescue from a north Atlantic shipwreck that had left him badly injured and with no knowledge of who he was or where he had come from. Taken on as

an innkeeper's almost slave in the bustling new settlement of Montreal his future looks very bleak until Boulard, a well-known voyageur, witnesses Peter's ill treatment and takes him to the home of a voyageur friend,. When Boulard finds that Peter can read and write and do sums, he takes Peter to meet with David Thompson, the famous explorer and mapmaker who is heading an expedition to find a "northwest" passage to the Pacific. Thompson agrees to take Peter on as a clerk and the adventures begin. Bayle makes the characters in Perilous Passage come vividly alive: David Thompson, those who work for and with him (good and bad), the First Nations leaders they encounter, the staffs at the various trading posts. I cared about these people and wanted to know more. Subtly, as the story unfolds, Peter sees glimpses of the past life he has forgotten as he acquires more and more skills. The 'passage' itself is indeed perilous, but Thompson is undaunted by the daily challenges and carries on. I should have had a map at hand as I read of the expedition tracing and retracing areas in the heart of what is now British Columbia. Perilous Passage is an engrossing and rewarding read with a most satisfactory conclusion. I recommend it highly. George Molnar 4 stars

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