



Road Stories

Ed Davis

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"His writing shines in descriptive passages, showing his love of travel and landscapes . . ." Publishers Weekly

In 1972, Ed Davis, like many in his generation, felt the call of the road. Unlike most, Davis rode freight trains. He caught rides on-the-fly, slept in hobo jungles and dodged railroad security across the Pacific Northwest and Canada. And like Jack Kerouac and Jack London before him, Davis wrote about what he saw.

For the next four decades, whether catching freights, trekking the Sierras, visiting an old friend in prison or attending a presidential inauguration, Davis took to the road whenever possible. Written in freight cars and truck stops, hotel lobbies and high mountain camps, "Road Stories "will take you places you've never been.

Join Davis working in an African hospital in a country on the verge of collapse. Spend a week exploring the remote paths of the Peruvian Andes. With a keen eye, he describes the seemingly mundane details of bus travel, and the feel of the warm prairie breeze blowing through an open car window at night.

Davis's travel tales resonate with readers because, as he says in the Forward, "We spend our lives on the road." Told with honesty and humor, "Road Stories" makes you want to hop a fast freight for parts unknown. Just watch out for the railroad bulls.

Road Stories Details

Date : Published December 14th 2013 by Wedgewood Press

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Author : Ed Davis

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Genre : Nonfiction, Biography, Anthologies

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From Reader Review Road Stories for online ebook

Glen says

I won this book in a goodreads drawing.

A collection of little tales from a travelling man, riding the rails, the buses, and going on foot to various places throughout the world. Mostly interesting, especially the ones where he was riding the rails as a latter day hobo.

Susan Alvarez says

Miss Hastings would give it an A+!

I too, an a classmate of Ed's. That is the reason I started reading Road Stories, I finished it because I felt as if I was on the road with Ed discovering places I may never see! Amazing story telling!

Lauren A. says

I would describe myself as more of a stay-at-home-with-a-good-book kind of person, but after reading Road Stories I think I've caught the wanderlust the author talks about! His adventures are written with sharp images and an easy-going narrative that makes me wonder why I haven't jumped on board a freight car and had my own adventures yet.

JKS Communications says

This book shows the American landscape the way I believe it was always meant to be explored: experienced in a tangible way with wide-eyed wonder. Ed Davis is a wise guide who takes his readers on the hitchhiking trip of a lifetime.

Richard Yonash says

Full disclosure, I have known the author since our high school days. That said, we have been on many road trips together, from hopping freights, to high sierra backpacking, to various plane, train & automobile

excursions. In fact, I owe him my life (or at least my legs) when I flubbed a rolling boxcar mount, and he grabbed me and pulled me into the car. Although I am still an avid backpacker, it's been many years since I've hopped freights. That said, reading Ed's account brought it all back, and almost made me get my old train backpack out of the garage, grab a bottle of cheap wine, and head for the Roseville Yard. This is a great read, and I highly recommend it. I can't wait to read "The Last Professional."

Catherine Sevenau says

Ed took me hither and yon in this wonderful book, and at the end—bought me home—the place that we come back to. As an indoor kind of girl, Road Stories was a way to get me out there. Thanks for the ride Ed Davis!

Chaplain Stanleigh Chapin says

A bit disjointed

Ramblings of too many different stories and aspects made it difficult to develop the messages. Perhaps a paragraph at the start of each would have given some groundwork to the chapter

Marissa DeCuir says

Road Stories is a wild ride through Ed Davis' past and the world. I loved seeing the world through the author's eyes and a lense of adventure and creativity. I would definitely recommend this one to anyone looking for a literary adventure and some inspiration for their own life!

Kathryn Notestine says

I felt like I was sitting around a campfire swapping travel stories with an old friend while I was reading this book. Such an exciting adventure for something that I am too intimidated and afraid to try myself! I feel like Ed and I have been life long friends, I would definitely choose him as a travel buddy, and I can't wait to read his other books!

George1st says

This is a book encapsulating Ed Davis's life time experiences of making journeys, describing either the actual journey itself or what was encountered at the beginning or at the final destination. The opening chapters are for me by far the best. Beginning in 1972 when he was just a young man, Davis narrates his time illegally riding the freight trains of the USA Pacific Northwest and Canada. Awaiting the chance to board a train during a cold night at a freight depot in Canada, a marvelous description of the scene and the itinerant people he encounters is presented which is worthy of Kerouac.

There is a fundamental element of thrill seeking and a feeling of obtaining freedom being pursued here. Unlike the hobos of the 1930's this was not an economic imperative for when Davis is caught by security he has enough cash on him to purchase a normal passenger ticket to his destination. Also even in the 1970's you still get the impression through the disused and abandoned former stations and decaying trains left to rot in the rail sidings that this is a country experiencing a profound economic change and deindustrialisation.

I also like the later narration regarding a Greyhound bus journey, you really get a visual picture and the observations are so accurate including the bit about the man putting his possessions on the seat next to him and pretending to be asleep when new passengers board at a new stop.

Other chapters include trekking on the Pacific Crest Trail and the Andes, working in a Zimbabwean hospital and attending Obama's presidential inauguration. With a whole host of emotions experienced and retold that range from wonderment to fearful we get a good understanding as to the essentially optimistic character of the writer. Certainly a most enjoyable read that in the early part of the book reminded me of the famous phrase that "to travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive".
