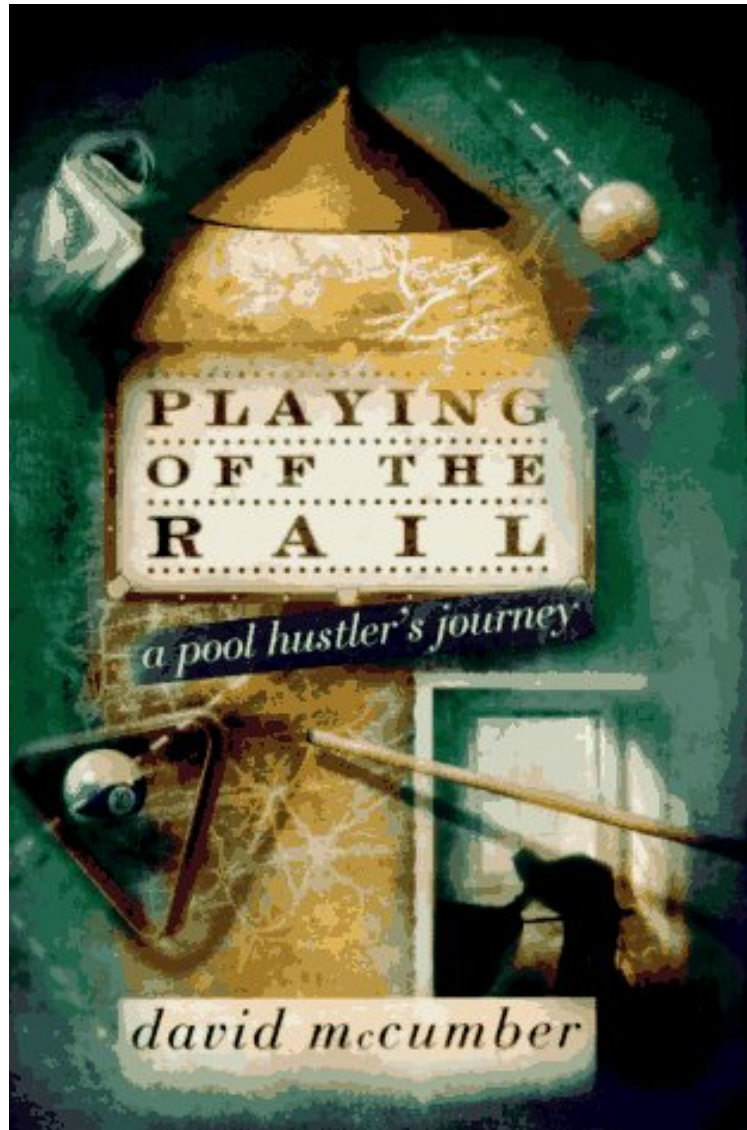


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Playing off the Rail:: A Pool Hustler's Journey

David McCumber

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#1694240 in Books Random House 1996-01-13 1996-01-13Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.75 x 6.50 x 1.25l, #File Name: 0679423745367 pages | File size: 30.Mb

David McCumber : Playing off the Rail:: A Pool Hustler's Journey before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Playing off the Rail:: A Pool Hustler's Journey:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Exciting Stories and Vivid charactersBy Phantom CriticI disliked the artsy writing style and the long blow-by-blow accounts of some of the pool contests . This book gets five stars because it more than makes up for those shortcomings with its amazing stories of gambling, cheating and near violence . Pool should be a game played in clean, modern halls by gentlemen . Yes, but that isn't the case for this author as he hits the

road to back a hustler and risk a lot of money . There outta be a movie made outta this !0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. GREAT BOOK FOR HUSTLER STORY'S AND BEATING PRO'S AND BIG MONEY HUSTLER'S.By CustomerGREAT ROAD STORIES PLAYING FOR BIG MONEY ASK FOR A SPOT THE EIGHT BALL AND OTHER THINGS LIKE RIDING THE TRAIN TOO A HUSTLING PLACE TOO MAKE MONEY GREAT BOOK I LIKE IT ERIC ROBERT MOREMAN FROM AKRON OHIO 44314.AND HOME TOO THE OLD AKRON OPEN TOURAMENT HUSTLERS AND PROS.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. seems to be getting betterBy scottA bit slow at the beginning, seems to be getting better though

Award-winning author David McCumber reveals the unknown world of the pool hustler as he travels across the country with one of America's top players, Tony Annigoni. From elegant snookers clubs to high-pressure tournaments to chancy dives, this wise-cracking and occasionally hair-raising road trip explores a distinctive American subculture.

From Publishers WeeklyIn late 1992, McCumber (X-Rated) became the "stakehorse" for his friend Tony Annigoni, owner of a San Francisco poolroom and a player of championship caliber. In that role, McCumber put up the money whenever Annigoni played and they split the winnings. This account of their cross-country odyssey will be appreciated by pool fanatics, but even those unfamiliar with the game will enjoy it if they can get past the heavy jargon. The world of the pool hustler is sui generis, McCumber shows, and it's primarily a gambler's world because, for most, money, not pool, is the name of the game. But like players in any other sport, these men (and, recently, women) must have the ability to bounce back from crushing defeat and start another contest with the right mental set (McCumber terms it "reinventing the self"), so the book offers some psychological insights as well. Author tour. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalThis book provides a nonfiction account of the pool hustler's world, where the color of money can be a very dingy green. The author is a reporter who hooks up with a pool player and agrees to put up the money to travel the country while gambling his finances on the hustler's skills. In this entertaining on-the-road journal, we meet a host of colorful characters and run a gauntlet of high stakes, low-life, pool hall activity. Befitting the smoky atmosphere of the pool hall, the language is strong and the threat of violence is always imminent. Over the course of the book, the action becomes repetitive, but the story is told from a unique perspective that captures the genuine flavor of pool hustling. Recommended for most libraries.?John Maxymuk, Rutgers Univ. Lib., Camden, N.J.Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistMcCumber takes readers on a North American odyssey into the world of pool hustlers, gamblers, dreamers, and losers--and even a few winners, too. A lifelong passion for pool and pool halls led the award-winning journalist to dream of going on the road, la Walter Tevis' fictional Hustler. Though a decent recreational player, McCumber knew he didn't have the talent for such an undertaking so he decided on the next-best thing: he became the stakehorse for Tony Annigoni, a San Francisco pool hall owner who had hovered for years on the fringes of the game's top players. A stakehorse supplies the money for a hustle: he gets half the winnings but absorbs all the losses and the expenses. Though the "road" isn't as long or populated as it once was, the pair seldom lacked opposition, and McCumber describes it all with relish--the old-fashioned, smoke-filled pool halls, dripping ambience, and, of course, the people, both the players and the railbirds. These are characters with names like Bucktooth and Waterdog; they smell the hustle but play anyway, addicted to the action and the life. This is not Blue Highways or Zen and the Art of Billiard Maintenance; there are no life lessons to be learned except that in today's circumscribed, success-oriented, downsizing world, it's comforting to know that the road is always there and the action never ends. Wes Lukowsky