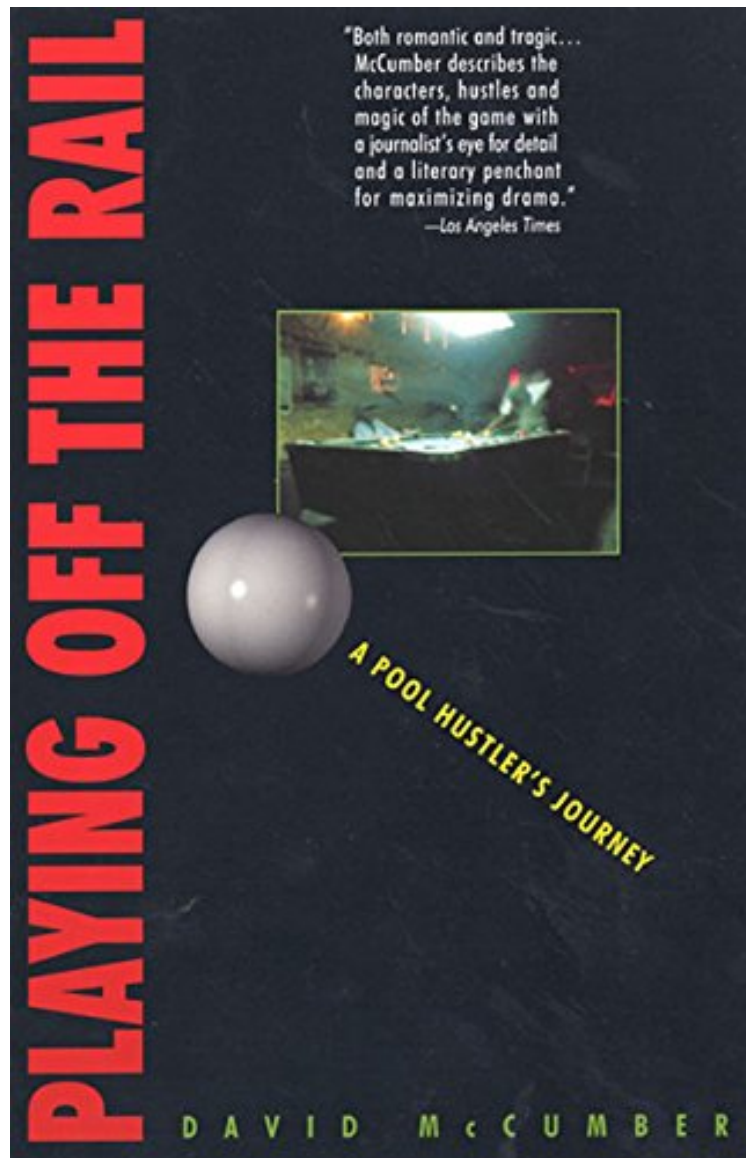


[E-BOOK] Playing Off the Rail: A Pool Hustler's Journey

Playing Off the Rail: A Pool Hustler's Journey

David McCumber

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#954120 in Books David Mccumber 1997-04-01 1997-04-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .87 x 5.251, .73 #File Name: 0380729237384 pagesPlaying off the Rail A Pool Hustler s Journey | File size: 75.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

At the age of 17, David McCumber was stricken with "road fever" that irresistible call to the itinerant life of a professional gambler. Twenty-two years later, he got the chance to follow that dream-not as a player but as the "stakehorse" (financial backer) for Tony Annigoni, a non-smoking, macrobiotic-eating "Renaissance Pool Hustler," student of Eastern religion, and master of the pure green-felt poetry of the dead stroke." With \$27,000 in David's pocket they took off together on an astonishing four-month odyssey across America-traveling from seedy, hole-in-the-wall billiard parlors to high-class snooker rooms to high-tension pro tourneys, from Seattle to Miami and back again-exploring a shady twilight subculture and uniquely American mythos, in search of serious money, local glory...and the perfect hustle.

From Publishers WeeklyA billiard parlor insider's on-the-road memoir of the felt. Copyright 1998 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