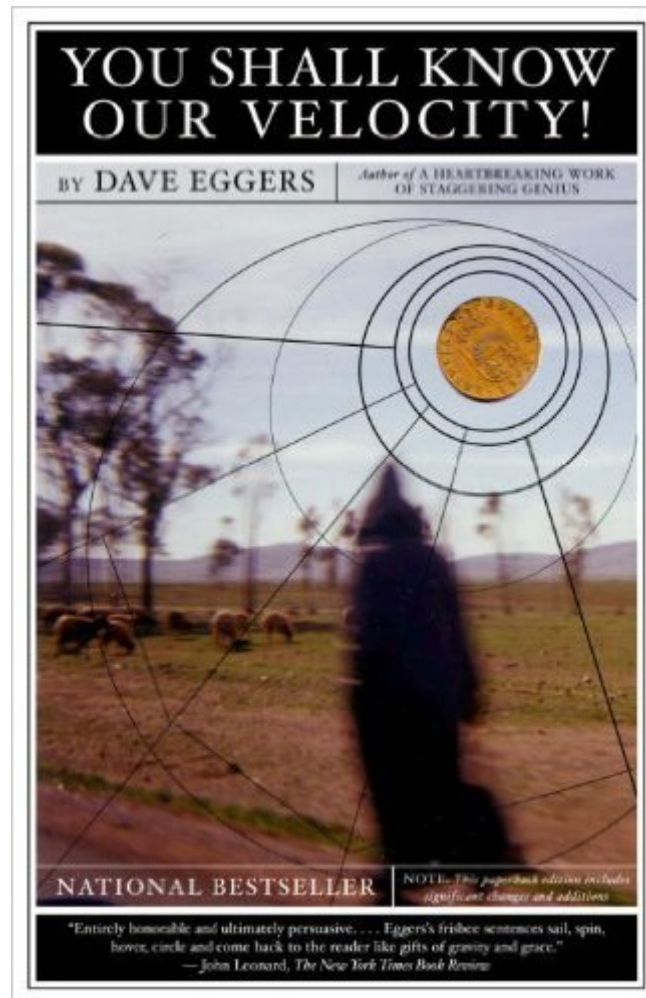


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You Shall Know Our Velocity



Synopsis

In his first novel, Dave Eggers has written a moving and hilarious tale of two friends who fly around the world trying to give away a lot of money and free themselves from a profound loss. It reminds us once again what an important, necessary talent Dave Eggers is.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In many ways, YSKOV is the polar opposite of AHWOSG. While Eggers' first book was angry and bustling with energy and chaos, here he takes a more leisurely pace, no less staggering, but in a more subtle and less fanfare way. The main character, Will, is diametrically different: he is melancholy and lonely, having recently lost his best friend and been physically beaten by a couple of anonymous attackers. So he decides to travel around the world handing out money to poor strangers with his friend Hand. They do it spontaneously, however, hoping that Providence will guide them to where they are supposed to be. So most of the places they decide to go to - Greenland, Siberia, Egypt, Mongolia, etc. - they never reach. Instead they end up in Senegal, Morocco, Estonia, and Latvia, and unlike most adventure stories, rather than finding adventure they find only a dead end. Their trip is a failure from start to finish - they never escape what they want to leave behind, and they never find where they want to be. They constantly abort their plans. Their philanthropy seems to help no one. Will tries to hop a horse buggy to hand the driver some cash, but falls on his face instead; they drive to the top of a mountain at night, looking for poor mountaineers, but find it empty and silent. This is a travel-adventure story made up of airport terminals, hotel rooms, empty beaches, vacant bars, desolate mountaintops and lonely woods. It is

the 'fourth world', the desolate regions of the world where people rarely ever come and rarely ever stay. Yet the fact that Will and Hand don't succeed is really the success of the story. It is not about the destinations, or the journey there, but about the things that lie in the past. Will's remembrance of his childhood are the most beautiful passages.

If you're reading the reviews of this book and at the bottom it says "Refers to the Hardcover Edition", then you should pay no attention to that review. The actual text of the book is different in the paperback edition than in the hardcover. As you can't actually get the hardcover anymore on .com, the hardcover review is pretty worthless. This book was originally released under the same title as now, but it was recently rereleased under the name SACRAMENT, but only available through the publisher, McSweeney's. SACRAMENT contained additional text written by a completely different narrator, and it actually turns the novel into something quite different. Sure, the novel does get to a point where it becomes a series of foils and mishaps in various countries, but it is at that point, about two-thirds of the way into the book, that the new material takes place. This new material provides a completely different context for the actions that take place throughout the rest of the book. In a way, it makes the story more metafictional than I imagine it originally was. The paperback edition contains the additional text, about twenty pages or so, that was not in the hardcover printing of the novel. So, for those of you who have only read the hardcover edition, I would recommend rereading, since the book is actually quite different than when you probably read it. If you're interested in it and thinking about reading it, I would highly recommend this work. Eggers is more popularly known nowadays for his skills as a publisher of some of the greatest writing since the turn of the century, and editor of McSweeney's Quarterly, among other things. It's been a long time since his first book, and until I read this I thought his own work would simply be thrown by the wayside.

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