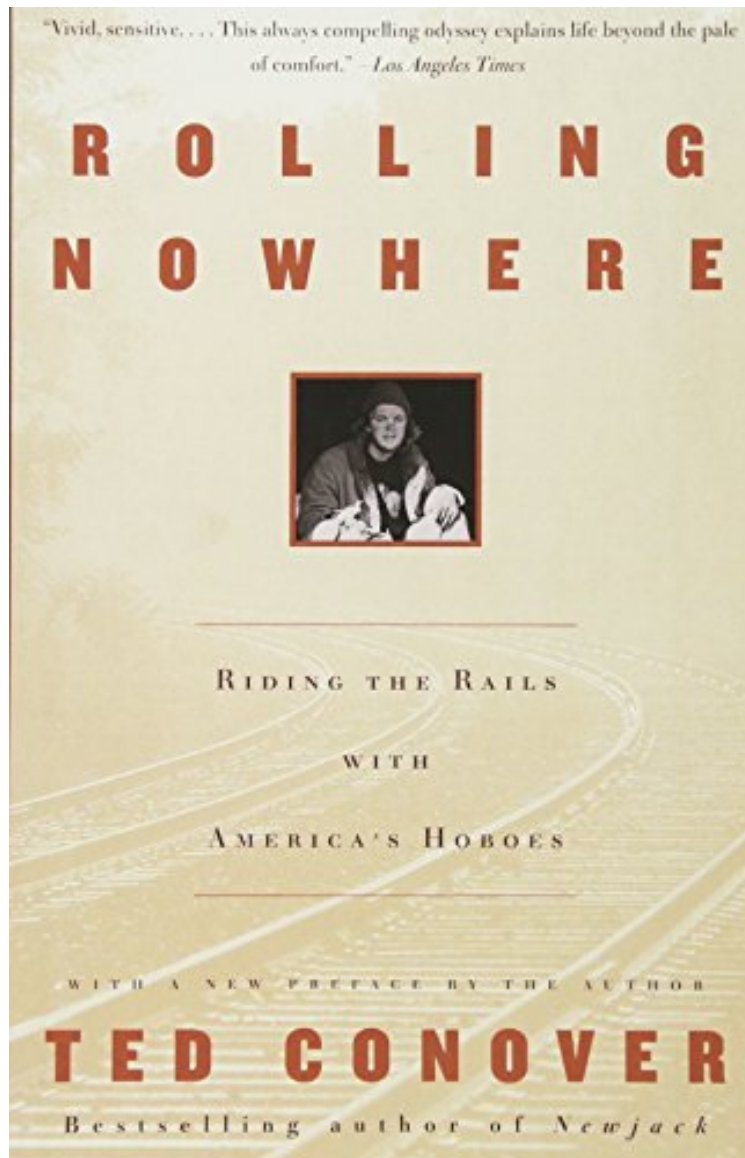


(Ebook pdf) Rolling Nowhere: Riding the Rails with America's Hoboes

Rolling Nowhere: Riding the Rails with America's Hoboes

Ted Conover

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#220050 in Books Ted Conover 2001-09-11 2001-09-11 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .70 x 5.20l, .49 #File Name: 0375727868304 pages Rolling Nowhere Riding the Rails with America s Hoboes | File size: 67.Mb

Ted Conover : Rolling Nowhere: Riding the Rails with America's Hoboes before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rolling Nowhere: Riding the Rails with America's Hoboes:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent and detailed personal history of lost adventure By MD and NPRiding the rails is a dead art, and hobos are passing into the pages of history. They were becoming rare in 1980 when Tim Conover wrote this book, and Homeland Security and containerized shipping have made hobos nearly

nonexistent. This is a detailed and personal experience, written by an Anthropology student with a yearning for learning and adventure beyond daily life. Conover captures the excitement of illicit travel, the gritty details of clothing, food and sleep, the physical danger of massive metal objects traveling at high speed and often unpredictable movements, and the dysfunctional, often pathological, lives of the "Knights of the road". By far the best of the five books I've read on this page of history. A great read for entertainment or education about life on the margins. Hobos still exist but they're no longer riding trains. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Could not quit reading it. By the way, Conover writes about a brief time in his life when he succeeded in accomplishing one of his dreams. My feeling is that a lot of people probably have fantasized about doing something like he did, but Conover just took the next step and actually did it. I enjoyed this autobiographical account of a short period in his life partially because it reminds me of a period in my life when I let the wanderlust settle in and determine my future to a degree as well, but Conover takes it to the extreme. He presents his experiences as-is, seeking neither acceptance nor approval from the reader--what you see is what you get. It's not pretty sometimes but it's life experienced for a while in another society. Hoboeing has changed largely over the years even to the point of phasing itself nearly out of existence, and Conover does an excellent job of writing about things as they were in the early 80's. But even then hoboeing had undergone a magnitude of changes so that it seemed to be merely a shadow of itself as it had been during the depression years. Generally I keep something to read near my PC so that I can occupy myself with some worthwhile distraction while my prehistoric computer boots up, but I found that most of the time with this book I was more interested in continuing with the reading even after the PC was booted up and ready to go. If the subject of riding the rails has ever entered your mind, you probably will enjoy this book. Even if it hasn't you probably will enjoy the book--there's a swell map too. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Rail Tramps By Cal Gal Though this book was first written in the late 1980s, I only recently read it and thoroughly enjoyed learning about more modern-day tramps who ride the rails for work opportunities, passing the time, escape, or just to learn what it's like. The author rode with them for several months, as another tramp rather than as a journalist, and wove their stories into a well-integrated tale that developed the characters and gave me a peek into a life style that I was surprised still existed. Though 30+ years have passed since the book was first published, I am betting there are still rail riders out there yet today, as the social and economic forces that compel people to make this choice continue to exist. As the most prevalent reasons seem to be homelessness, lack of adequate education, and a paucity of appropriate job opportunities, there are probably more tramps out there than anyone could guess. Conover showed empathy and understanding towards his subject but dispelled any idea that hopping freight trains is a glamorous way of life.

In Ted Conover's first book, now back in print, he enters a segment of humanity outside society and reports back on a world few of us would choose to enter but about which we are all curious. Hoboes fascinated Conover, but he had only encountered them in literature and folksongs. So, he decided to take a year off and ride the rails. Equipped with rummage-store clothing, a bedroll, and a few other belongings, he hops a freight train in St. Louis, becoming a tramp in order to discover their peculiar culture. The men and women he meets along the way are by turns generous and mistrusting, resourceful and desperate, philosophical and profoundly cynical. And the narrative he creates of his travels with them is unforgettable and moving.

"Vivid, sensitive... this always compelling odyssey explains life beyond the pale of comfort."--Los Angeles Times "Rolling Nowhere is so vivid that every few pages the urge to clack the dust from one's own clothes is almost irresistible."--The New York Times Book Review In Ted Conover's first book, now back in print, he enters a segment of humanity outside society and reports back on a world few of us would choose to enter but about which we are all curious. Hoboes fascinated Conover, but he had only encountered them in literature and folksongs. So, he decided to take a year off and ride the rails. Equipped with rummage-store clothing, a bedroll, and a few other belongings, he hops a freight train in St. Louis, becoming a tramp in order to discover their peculiar culture. The men and women he meets along the way are by turns generous and mistrusting, resourceful and desperate, philosophical and profoundly cynical. And the narrative he creates of his travels with them is unforgettable and moving. About the Author Ted Conover is the author most recently of the National Book Critics Circle Award Nominee *Newjack: Guarding Sing Sing*. He lives in New York City.