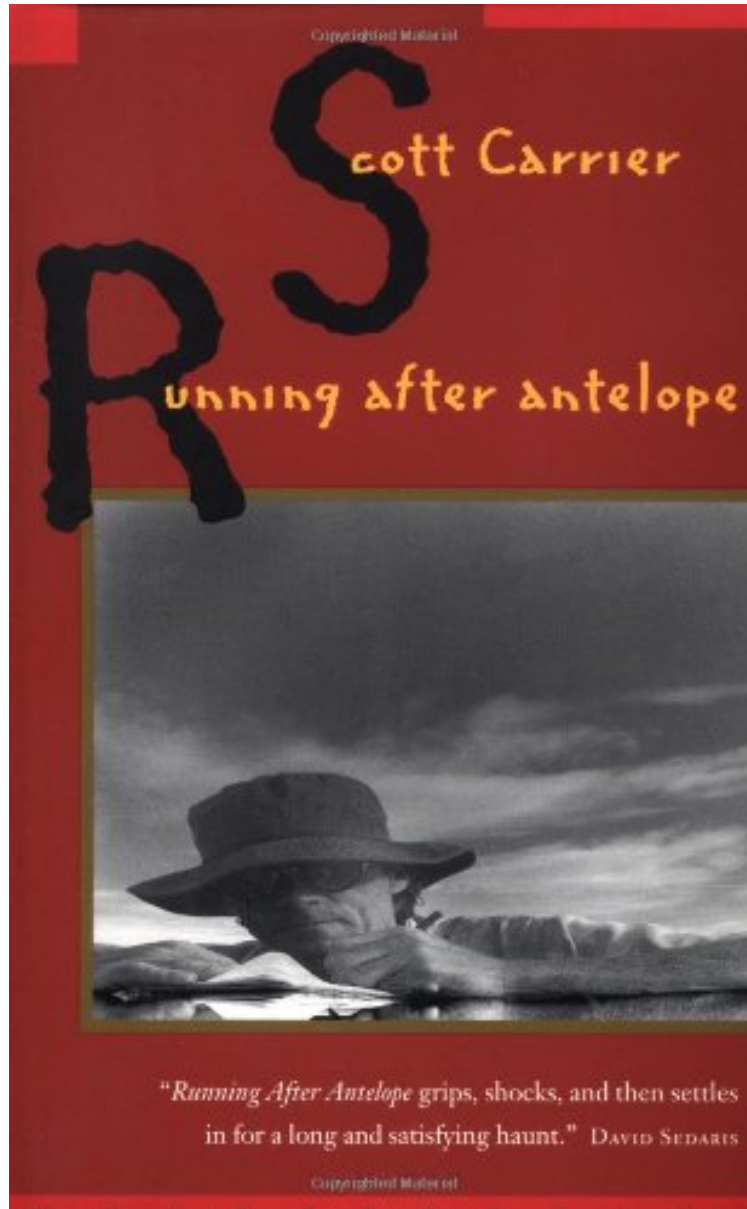


(Download free pdf) Running After Antelope

## Running After Antelope

Scott Carrier

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#472825 in Books Counterpoint 2002-03 2002-03-19Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 7.99 x .34 x 5.00l, .36 #File Name: 1582431795144 pages | File size: 61.Mb

**Scott Carrier : Running After Antelope** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Running After Antelope:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I absolutely loved this readBy Jonathan SanchezI absolutely loved this read, it was a required txt for a writing class at my local community college; I'm glad that its mine to keep now.

Personally, I have a short attention span when I read and need for books to suck me in ASAP, or I tend to lose interest. This book by Scott Carrier consists of many short stories/essays that are all about his personal adventures. It's easy to read and is not in any particular chronological order. The writer allows you to follow him from one time frame in his life to another. As the book goes on, Scott Carrier sometimes jumps back to a previous journal entry and follows up with what actually happens or how things played out. Thank you for sharing your life with us Mr.

Carrier! Sincerely, Jonathan Sanchez  
8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A Unique, American Voice  
By D. D. Fulton  
Scott Carrier's collection of essays, *Running After Antelope* alternates sections about travel's to Cambodia, time spent interviewing the mentally ill, and beatnik hitchhiking adventures with brief, intercalary chapters, indexed by year, which describe his passion for animal of the title. Carrier is consumed by the idea of being able to run with these creatures, to track them and perhaps outrun them eventually. On several occasions we meet Scott's brother, a scientist who studies the respiratory systems of mammals. Their relationship is often engaging, as is Scott's relationship to the antelope themselves. Indeed, the author's voice, so easy to read along with after hearing it so many times on NPR, dominates the landscape to such a degree that the reader never really gets a clear view of the vistas, natural and metaphorical, that he attempts to exposit in these brief essays. As individual works, the essays are like existential snapshots of a hell always just below the surface. The best essay in the collection, *The Test*, describes Carrier's time as a field interviewer for the mentally ill. He meets several, decidedly disturbed individuals - a man who tells Carrier that he can read his mind with the help of a crystal he carries, a woman who was put on medication because she claims sex with angels, and an eighty year old man who responds to every question with a plaintive "I can't remember". Carrier's job plunges further into the heart of darkness when he decides to take the test himself, only to discover, half way through, that the results aren't going to be good. As startling, even heartbreaking, as this essay is, the fact that it is followed later on by a rather lighthearted, Charles Kuralt-esque piece about hitching a ride across country with an aspiring art dealer - who incidentally, believes his brother to be a genius of the art world; I wonder if Carrier considered making a stronger parallel with his own brother - and then by two pieces of travel journalism in which Carrier, promisingly enough, rents a motorcycle to transverse the countryside, and then, after getting lost on his way back to the palatial hotel, promptly returns it. The rudiments of Carrier's dark vision of things not quite in their proper place (especially the author himself) do make themselves known from time to time, even these weaker essays. The problem is that the reader's focus is split between the narrator's neurosis (and it is a fascinating one) and the decidedly journalistic intent in many of these essays. The divide never seems to converge at any point, despite the contextual format which leads the reader to believe otherwise. The lack of tonal cohesion between the various pieces, though distracting, should not dissuade a good, long sitting with Carrier's book, however. The precision of his prose style, which sometimes borders on the baroque, has been honed by years freelancing for public radio. As such, the writing is meant to stimulate the mind's eye. In an early essay, Carrier describes the quite, natural splendor of his Utah: There are little birds in the trees, and big birds on the rock walls of the canyon - red rock walls in the shadow of the afternoon sun. A dirt road comes around and down and crosses over the stream, and in the pool below road a pale snake slides silent into the water and swims to the other side, holding something rather large in its mouth. Assonance aside, these sorts of passages, brief and almost haiku-like, crop up throughout the book and provide the necessary calm and elegance to counter Carrier's dark and often morbid musings. It is strange that Scott Carrier, the brooding, almost transient voice so often heard amongst the wacky and the cranky on *This American Life*, should become a representative belle letterist for this new century. However, the hodgepodge of modes that make up *Running After Antelope* - memoir, travel essay, nature writing - seems a perfect fit for the era of the translucent computer and gourmet fast-food. Appetites change and morph throughout even a single sitting of reading. To this end, Scott Carrier's short collection of flawed but very often beautiful and haunting essays should provoke even the most distracted of readers.  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Really enjoyed the stories and Carrier's no frills writing style  
By R. tryon  
Really enjoyed the stories and Carrier's no frills writing style. The stories of his time in Cambodia were especially interesting.

The wildly various stories in *Running After Antelope* are connected and illuminated by a singular passion: the author's attempt to run down a pronghorn antelope. His pursuit-odd, funny, and inspired-is juxtaposed with stories about sibling rivalry, falling in love, and working as a journalist in war-torn countries. Scott Carrier provides a most unique record of a most unique life.

.com The signs that Scott Carrier was a writer and not an athlete showed up early. At the age of 12, Carrier was the free safety and captain of the defense on his football team. During one game he got his teammates into a huddle and told them he was going to do something different: We're going to line up in a six-three, but as they get set I'm going to say a haiku, and I want you guys to start moving around, dance around, stand on your head, do whatever you want. We'll kill them. Ready, break! When the quarterback started his count, Carrier shouted, "The wind brings dry leaves enough to start a fire!" and his teammates froze. When asked by his coach what on earth he'd been doing, Carrier calmly replied, "We're running a haiku." When pressed for a rationale, he said simply, "It was just an idea. It didn't

really work out like I thought it would. I'm ready to move on, if you are." And move on he did, crisscrossing the country as a contributor for NPR for nearly two decades. Some of his radio pieces (as well as longer essays written for Esquire and Harper's) have been collected in *Running After Antelope*. Sometimes sad, sometimes haunting, often funny, Carrier writes about travels to war-torn areas, personal relationship crises, and, of course, his quest to chase down an antelope--thus perhaps validating his vertebrate-morphologist brother's so-called running hypothesis: that humans became upright in order to breathe better. In the book's final essay, Carrier is chasing after an antelope he calls the Lone Male. His friends have kept the animal running for almost an hour when it crosses Carrier's path. Relatively fresh, he takes off after it, "And I laugh. I laugh and I run and it is, for sure, the best thing I've ever done. I have everything I need, the wilderness is unfolding in front of me." In the end, little is resolved--the wars and relationships continue, the thesis remains unproven. But Carrier would be the first to remind us that the pursuit--be it for peace, love, or science--has a purpose unto itself. *Running After Antelope* celebrates that pursuit in engaging fashion. -- Sunny Delaney

From Publishers Weekly  
Radio meets print journalism in this slim, entertaining anthology of outtakes from Carrier's last 20 years as a writer, hitchhiker, radio producer and occasional war correspondent. The book consists of stories originally broadcast on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered* and Public Radio International's *This American Life*; magazine articles originally published in Harper's and Esquire; and a narrative detailing Carrier's obsessive attempts to literally run down a pronghorn antelope. As with all anthologies, some pieces are more successful than others. The best story, "The Test," chronicles a temp job in which Carrier interviewed people on Medicaid support for schizophrenia, taking the agonizing responses and reducing them to statistics and cold data; in the piece's shattering climax, Carrier turns inward and forces himself to answer the same questions. Other stories focus on Carrier's rough-and-tumble encounters with memorable, oddball characters like his brother (a vertebrate morphologist who collected roadkill in the name of science) or the fundamentalist carpenters of "Windfall" (who were obsessed with Star Trek, the Trilateral Commission and Ted Kennedy). The least effective parts are Carrier's experiments as a foreign correspondent in Kashmir, Cambodia, and Chiapas, Mexico, where his touristic narratives are too thin for the gravity of the tragedies he's writing about. ("You'll never figure it out in ten days," a woman in Chiapas told him angrily. "It's pretty arrogant and stupid to even think you could.") The rest of the book, however, is more perceptive and honest, as well as funny. While this "greatest hits" selection may not propel Carrier into the celebrity ranks of fellow NPR alumni David Sedaris and Sarah Vowell, it's a fine performance. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal  
Carrier, a regular contributor to Ira Glass's *This American Life*, sees the experiences of life as a series of little stories to be shared. In this slim narrative, he gathers his autobiographical essays from radio as well as longer stories that have appeared in Harper's and Esquire, organizes them in chronological order, and envelopes the reader with his quests. He shares his pursuit of a pronghorn antelope and the challenges in his ultimate mission in search of adulthood, happiness, and success. Carrier's trek takes him from Lawrence, KS, through the American West to an assignment in Cambodia that left him exhausted and sad, to other foreign lands and back to Salt Lake City, where he is happiest. Carrier writes with humor and wit while inviting his readers into his thoughts, his stories, and his imagination. Recommended for all libraries. Cynde Bloom Lahey, New Canaan Lib., CT Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.