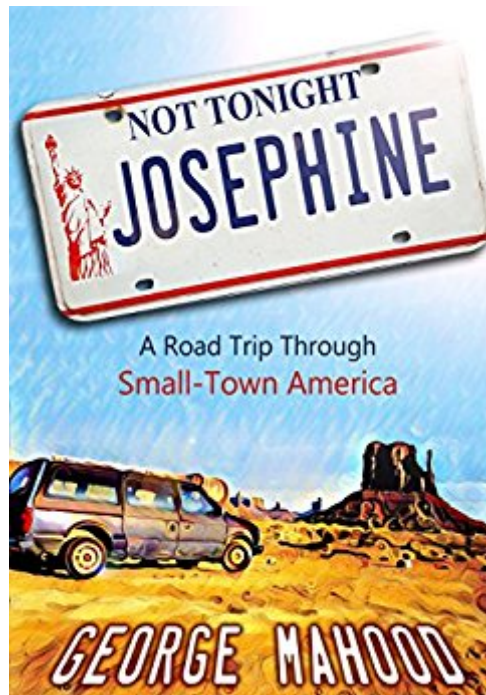




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Not Tonight, Josephine: A Road Trip Through Small-Town America



Synopsis

George is genuinely hilarious and more hilarious, cringe-worthy and totally chaotic. A brilliant read, amusing, informative and heart-warming throughout. I learned more about our great US of A from this BRITISH author than I did in history class. Two Brits, George and Mark, set off from New York City to explore the back roads of America. In this calamity-ridden travel tale, George sets out in true clichéd fashion to discover the real America. Throw in plenty of run-ins with the police, rapidly dwindling finances and Josephine – the worst car in the world - and you have all the ingredients for a classic American road trip. Will George and Mark make it all the way to California? And then there is Rachel, George's girlfriend, left back in England. Would travelling to the United States without her turn out to be the stupidest decision he had ever made?

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Customer Reviews

Several years ago I read this author's first book FREE COUNTRY: A PENNILESS ADVENTURE THE LENGTH OF BRITAIN. I still think it's one of the funniest, most thoughtful books I've ever read. I've always meant to check back and see if he had a new one. Now I find that he's published four books since then, so I'm a bit behind, but catching up will be no hardship at all. He's simply a wonderful story-teller and that's what counts with me. To be brutally honest, I don't think this book is as outstanding as FREE COUNTRY. That one was based on the sort of uniquely insane idea that makes for a great book. This one is the story of two young Brits just out of college and ready to explore the world, especially that intriguing place called America. Not an earth-shaking idea, although the author brings his own special brand of craziness to the plan. Also, the trip occurred in 2000 and written up 16 years later. There's more nostalgia than immediacy and I think that makes a difference. Still, even as a young man, George must have already had his confidence-inspiring mojo going for him. At almost every stop along the way, he and his friend Mark connected with people in a surprising way. OK, we're friendly folks (usually) and an English accent goes over big, but I think that few youngsters would have gotten as close to the locals as these two did. Put it another way, it's not really a "travelogue" and that's to its advantage. Of course, at the age of 22 you can be very intelligent and even well-read and still not have sense enough to come in out of the rain, which is why young folks have such interesting adventures. They were under-funded and over-optimistic. All they knew about America was what they had seen on television and so they knew that the cities were filled with dangerous, dishonest people and the small towns were filled with kindly, honest people. This notion lead them to Woodstock, NY, where they purchased a beat-up 1989 Dodge Caravan from a Brazilian who was clearly anxious to get out of the country as soon as possible. On the theory that "beauty is only skin deep" they figured that "Josephine" must have an inner beauty that would get them to the West Coast and back again in ease and style. They were wrong, as they quickly and expensively found out. A side story is that the author left England just as he had finally landed the girl of his dreams, Rachel. Absence may make the heart grow fonder or it may cause a promising romance to die an ugly death. He wants to make this dream trip and he wants to keep his girl. Can he manage both? It's a good, entertaining book. This guy is either a magnet for strange situations and people or he exaggerates very well indeed. Does it matter? Not to me. He's not fearless (because he was scared badly more than once) but he does believe in forging on and he's always hopeful. That's what you need to be an adventurer - an open mind and lots of confidence.

He found a great deal to admire about America and Americans and he cuts us a lot of slack even about the things that he didn't think much of. Nobody's perfect. Seeing your country through the eyes of a foreigner is a humbling, fascinating experience. I enjoyed this book.

I'm attracted to travelogues like tires to tarmac. I've savored Bill Bryson, William Least Heat Moon and Jack Kerouac. While not as profound as the aforementioned, Brit George Mahood's self-deprecating and often comical and conversational take on his American road trip was a most fulfilling read. My husband and I have been true "Blue Highways" travelers since we were George's age and have logged many hundreds of thousands of miles discovering the "real" America by keeping to back roads, sometimes even dirt and gravel ones. For me, many of the adventures and travails George, Mark and Rachel experienced with Josephine, the clapped out mini-van brought back fond memories. If you've never turned the ignition key, left your comfort zone with no specific destination in mind as George, Josephine and his companions did, I urge you to take a chance on wonderment and learning more about yourself than you ever imagined. If you're more of an armchair traveler, I think you'll enjoy this lighthearted and quirky road trip around America.

I learned so much about my own country from this Englishman. This book is a thoroughly enjoyable read from the moment he sets foot in America until he heads home. I am a huge fan of his other books but, being quite the Anglophile, I was concerned I wouldn't be as fond of a story not set in England. Well, I was completely taken in by his humor (humour?) and his viewpoint on everything from historical landmarks to regional foods. My only regret is that I have finished it and there's not another George Mahood book waiting for me.

George strikes again! I've read all of his books (I think) and love them all. This one is tied with FREE COUNTRY as my favorite! I hope George continues to share his adventures with us. If so, I foresee a future in which he and Mark battle it out from their wheelchairs with Rachel rolling her eyes and shaking her head while the rest of us laugh our assets off. I would give it ten stars if I could.

For disclosure purposes, I may share the same last name but I am not related or prone to hyperbole or bias based on our surname. Not Tonight Josephine is a easy to enjoy book with humor that could only come from George Mahood. An unprecedented trek to see small-town America that includes harrowing, chaos-filled, and hard luck incidents told in pure comedic fashion. From icy mountain ditch escapades to tourist excursions that lead nowhere, Mahood weaves a one-of-a-kind tale that

is sure to please even the most skeptical reader. This reader's advice is to not book George as a tour guide but enjoy him as an author.

I've read everything by George. All of it is totally enjoyable, and this book is no exception. This book brings back memories of travels I did with friends back in those years before I was married. It was all wild and wonderful. This book describes a perfect road trip: on the cheap having fun in odd and wonderful places. Those were the days! You can't go wrong with this travel book. It's just totally fun.

I really enjoy all of George's books. I was happy to see he had published another book and got to reading it as soon as possible, but then my kindle broke. I think his book was a reason I got another. I just can't get enough of his humor and the way he tells his stories. I was not disappointed with this book. I'm so impressed with what he will do. He takes me on adventures I couldn't possibly dream of myself! Thank you for such an excellent journey!

George, you need to write some more books because I've read every one and need another! This story is just as fun as all the others. I love taking George's adventures (end to end tour, Iron Man, etc.) with him from the comfort of my couch. This book makes you really appreciate all the wonderful things about the United States. My only beef was his comment about Ohio - come back here, George and experience the awesome parts of Ohio (where I live).

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