

# RAILROAD SEMANTICS: Oregon Trunk, Fallbridge, Brooklyn, Cascade, Black Butte, Valley Subs by AARON DACTYL

Winner of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Best American Travel Writing 2012

“Hiding in railroad yards, hopping freight trains, scenic panoramas, hobo camps, documenting railroad art, the joys of open air freedom, and the frustrations of living rough are all the focus of *Railroad Semantics*. Equal parts travel diary and railroad news roundup, it feels so immediate and adventurous that you can feel the breeze in the boxcar. A great artifact about railroad culture.” —**One Minute Zine Reviews**

“The description of the characters, the landscape and trains Aaron meets on this trip make it seem like you are there. I have never jumped a train and at this point in my life doubt that I ever will, but this great little book makes me feel like I was there. Lots of great photos of the scenery of ride and great hobo art.” —**410 Media**

Aaron describes his summer riding freight trains between Portland and Northern California in near poetic detail. Between the exhausting waits in sparse canyons, and breezy sunny rides into Eugene, Aaron manages to make riding trains sound like a grand adventure.

This volume also includes interesting local articles about the railroads: shipping trash to landfills by train, Junction City’s lawsuit against the rail company, and a landslide. Plus absolutely beautiful photography of pictures of hobo graffiti, scenic vistas, trains, and crusty punks!

ISBN: 9781621060543  
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Subjects: Autobiography / Cultural Studies  
Price: \$7.95 U.S.



**Aaron Dactyl** is a photo-journalist and hobo living in Eugene, OR. He has been traveling via freights since the 90s and documenting these trips. He is a freelance photographer and his work has appeared in the *Indecent Times*, *The Reader*, *Whisky Business Review*, *Pacific Northwest Buzzard News*, and *XXX Weekly*.

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### Comparable/Competitive Titles:

- Mostly True 9780978866525 (Microcosm Publishing) \$8.00, 2008
- One More Train to Ride 9780253216526 (Indiana University) \$17.95, 2009
- The Hobo Handbook 9781440512278 (Adams Media) \$14.95, 2011

### Benefits

- 1: A sense of adventure found in an engaging true story
- 2: A restlessness to hit the rails and see hidden parts of the world
- 3: Adventure seems much more possible and the world feels much smaller after reading

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