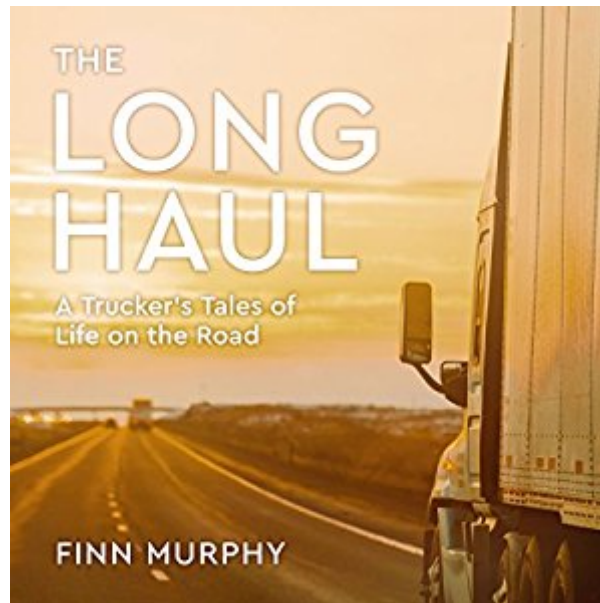




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The Long Haul: A Trucker's Tales Of Life On The Road



Synopsis

More than 30 years ago, Finn Murphy dropped out of college to become a trucker. Since then he's covered hundreds of thousands of miles packing, loading, and hauling people's belongings all over America. Murphy whisks listeners down the I-95 Powerlane, across the Florida Everglades, in and out of the truck stops of the Midwest, and through the steep grades of the Rocky Mountains. He tells funny, poignant, and haunting stories of the people he moves: a hoarder in New Hampshire, a Virginia homeowner raging when Murphy's truck accidentally runs down a stand of trees, a widow rushing her archaeologist husband's remains and relics to a Navajo burial ceremony in New Mexico. Brimming with personality and great characters, *The Long Haul* explores the appeal of manual labor and shows what happens behind the scenes when we call the movers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

What a good book. It's the memoir of an autodidactic gentleman trucker. I'd rank it right up with *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D.Vance. A thoughtful view of America from ten feet up in a Freightliner, hauling furniture cross-country. The writing is excellent and the narrator impressive and relatable. Here's a sample: "A Jake brake...sounds like a machine gun beneath my feet as it works to keep 70,000 pounds of steel and rubber under control." Also, this: "I was running north in a convoy with nine other trucks...We flew together for 130 miles doing 65 the whole way...it was wonderful...We all fell into a groove. Everybody was driving well, everybody was professional, everybody was going fast but not crazy fast, and there was a plane of consciousness that we had together. It's the closest thing to a

Zen experience I know, except when I'm in my loading trance."And finally: "Terry dropped his trailer and hooked up (another). He pulled away in a glob of diesel smoke and a toot from the air horn. Gone. It's unlikely I'll ever see him again. He was a smart, thoughtful, and defeated man caught in the amber of class, education, and diminished expectations for himself and his progeny."Especially since the last election, many Americans are trying to learn more about their fellow countrymen, and the reality of the life of people they don't interact with. There should be a category of books called, "Learn about the Real America." The Long Haul and Hillbilly Elegy would be on that shelf.

Reading this book was an unexpected pleasure. Author Finn Murphy dropped out of college after three years and chose to become a long haul truck driver for a company that moves family possessions from one city to another. In the industry these kind of movers are called bedbuggers and their trucks are called roach coaches. Car haulers are nicknamed parking lot attendants and hazmat truckers are dubbed suicide jockeys. Murphy tells many fascinating stories about shippers, the folks who own the furniture, dishes and other belongings that he carefully packed and loaded on his trailer. Some are nice people and others are a pain in the backside. In all cases, Finn and his crew of packers and loaders get an intimate glimpse of the shippers and know everything about them within thirty minutes of arrival at their homes. Murphy made pretty good money but he worked long hard hours. Some of that time was devoted to heavy lifting and movement of furniture and cartons, on and off the trailer, with other hours navigating our country's highways. In the latter case, he made sure that his audio system gave him plenty of options, that his tractor/trailer rig was in good repair, and his beverage container had plenty of a drink he called Dr. Cola, a mix of Coca-Cola and Dr. Pepper. He recalls the best part of his job was the independence it gave him along with the constant variety of people served and an ever-shifting landscape. A successful move, as he called it, was everything in the truck delivered on time and the shipper signing off that there would be no claim for loss or damage. This book may not be of interest to everyone. I wanted to read it because I've moved twenty-three times in my life. The majority of those moves were during my career in the Marines when I drove the same highways, from one coast to the other, a total of six trips, along with a move to Hawaii and back, plus one to Viet Nam. Thanks to Finn Murphy, I now have a greater appreciation of the men who got my gear safely from one duty station to the other.

very good reading and it kept my interest . I did not want to stop reading it as I wanted to read what type of trouble was he going to get into !!

Very commendable effort for the author's first book. It is an enjoyable look at long haul trucking and the moving business interspersed with dry humor.

Great read. Let me into a world I never thought about or could have entered on my own. Now when I see trucks on the road - I have an idea what's going on.

Couldn't put this book down. Great stories a new respect for bebuggers. Lot of wisdom in this book. Recommend highly.....

The Long Haul is an excellent read. The life of an owner operator in the moving industry is complex and entails effective social interactive skills, as well as the heart of loading a van. As a Southerner, I take exception to Mr. Murphy's pejorative sociological evaluation of the South and its inhabitants -

I loved this book. I happened to pick it up at a bookstore and was immediately drawn into the memoir! Sharing the road with truck drivers will never be the same for me. Poignant, hilarious and lively!

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