

The Map and the Territory (Vintage International)

By Michel Houellebecq



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The most celebrated and controversial French novelist of our time delivers a riveting masterpiece about art and money, love and friendship, and fathers and sons.

Jed Martin is an artist. His first photographs feature Michelin road maps, and global success arrives with his series on professions: portraits of various personalities, including a writer named Houellebecq. Not long afterward, Jed helps a police inspector solve a heinous crime that leaves lasting marks on everyone involved. But after burying his father and growing old himself, Jed also discovers serenity, a deeply moving conclusion to a life of lovers, friends, and family, and filled with hopes, losses, and dreams.



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The Map and the Territory (Vintage International) By Michel Houellebecq Bibliography

Sales Rank: #29421 in Books
Brand: Vintage International
Published on: 2012-11-13
Released on: 2012-11-13

• Original language: English

• Number of items: 1

• Dimensions: 7.99" h x .87" w x 5.18" l, .63 pounds

• Binding: Paperback

• 288 pages

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Editorial Review

From Booklist

Starred Review Houellebecq (The Possibility of an Island, 2006) has been outraging and galvanizing readers with his meticulously composed, cold-souled novels for the last 12 years. In his latest, winner of France's Prix Goncourt, he addresses the vatic nature of creativity and our ever-expanding definition of art while telling the story of an emotionally shut-down artist, Jed Martin, and a reclusive writer named (what else?) Michel Houellebecq. Jed's inexplicably powerful photographs of old Michelin maps bring him fame, wealth, and love. Brooding and insular, he next embarks on a series of paintings that pay homage to people and their work as the Industrial Revolution gives way to the digital revolution. Jed tracks down despondent and disheveled Michel to ask him to write catalog copy for an upcoming exhibition, thereby initiating a melancholy bond. Up to this point, Houellebecq's novel is supremely ensnaring in its acute and arch dissection of human endeavors elevated and crass, the latter including the tyranny of trends and the so-called free market. Suddenly, things take a macabre turn as we're plunged into an appalling crime scene, which gradually morphs into a disquieting paean to nature's indomitability. Houellebecq's bewitching journey on the river of art to the cave of death and decay is a tale of eviscerating insight, caustic humor, troubling beauty, and haunting provocation. --Donna Seaman

Review

Praise for *The Map and the Territory*:

Winner of the 2010 Prix Goncourt

"A serious reflection on art, death, and contemporary society, *The Map and the Territory* is a tour de force."—*The Los Angeles Review of Books*

"Powerful. . . . [A] singular novel. . . . Archly sarcastic, cheerily pedantic, willfully brutal." — The New York Times Book Review

"An ingenious and engaging composite of künstlerroman and police procedural; a novel of ideas; and an authorial self-reflection." –*The Boston Globe*

"All novelists everywhere have benefited from [Houellebecq's] audacity. . . . his temerity has recharged the form and reminded people what the novel can do." -- The Sunday Times

"Funny, astonishing and authoritative. . . . This is the brilliant and controversial French writer's most intellectually ambitious book.." —*The Guardian*

"Beautifully, accurately translated If ever there was a novelist for our globally dysfunctional times it's Michel Houellebecq. . . . Long cast aside as the bad boy of books, [his] latest novel has seen him brought in from the cold, and embraced by the literary establishment for what he's always been – not much short of a genius." —*The Mirror*

"One of the most important facts about Michel Houellebecq . . . is that he is a first-rate prose stylist. . . . Teasing and entertaining. . . . A page turner." —*Literary Review*

"Houellebecq's bewitching journey on the river of art to the cave of death and decay is a tale of eviscerating insight, caustic humor, troubling beauty, and haunting provocation." –Booklist

"[Houellebecq is] a trenchant, sharp-tongued social commentator."—Bookforum

"Very likely his best [book] ever, a serious novel about aging and death that also employs its author's trademark lugubrious wit towards some delicious exercises in satire and self-parody. . . . Challenging, mature and highly intelligent." —The Daily Telegraph

"A dark master of invention. . . . In a world of copycatting and fakery, Michel Houellebecq is an exceptional writer and a stand-out original." — *Evening Standard*

"An astonishing writer. . . . The Map and the Territory is funny, shocking, brutal and unbearably poignant. . . . Sublime." —Scotland on Sunday

About the Author

Already honored with the Prix Novembre and the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, **Michel Houellebecq** won the Prix Goncourt for *The Map and the Territory* in 2010.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Marcos Gorman:

Book will be written, printed, or descriptive for everything. You can recognize everything you want by a e-book. Book has a different type. As we know that book is important point to bring us around the world. Next to that you can your reading talent was fluently. A book The Map and the Territory (Vintage International) will make you to be smarter. You can feel much more confidence if you can know about every thing. But some of you think that will open or reading some sort of book make you bored. It is not necessarily make you fun. Why they might be thought like that? Have you looking for best book or ideal book with you?

David Veal:

The feeling that you get from The Map and the Territory (Vintage International) will be the more deep you rooting the information that hide in the words the more you get considering reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to be aware of but The Map and the Territory (Vintage International) giving you thrill feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in certain way that can be understood by anyone who read it because the author of this book is well-known enough. This book also makes your own personal vocabulary increase well. So it is easy to understand then can go along with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We suggest you for having this specific The Map and the Territory (Vintage International) instantly.

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Justin Mireles:

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