



The Map and the Territory (Vintage International)

By Michel Houellebecq

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

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:

Alex Levey:

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity to get spend your time. Any person spent all their spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book allowed *The Map and the Territory* (Vintage International)? Maybe it is being best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have different opinion?

Bettie Hentges:

What do you with regards to book? It is not important along with you? Or just adding material if you want something to explain what your own problem? How about your spare time? Or are you busy individual? If you don't have spare time to try and do others business, it is gives you the sense of being bored faster. And you have extra time? What did you do? Every person has many questions above. The doctor has to answer that question due to the fact just their can do in which. It said that about guide. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is right. Because start from on kindergarten until university need this kind of *The Map and the Territory* (Vintage International) to read.

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Catharine Rosol:

In this period globalization it is important to someone to receive information. The information will make you to definitely understand the condition of the world. The health of the world makes the information better to share. You can find a lot of referrals to get information example: internet, newspaper, book, and soon. You can view that now, a lot of publisher this print many kinds of book. The particular book that recommended to you personally is *The Map and the Territory* (Vintage International) this reserve consist a lot of the information of the condition of this world now. That book was represented how can the world has grown up. The language styles that writer require to explain it is easy to understand. Typically the writer made some research when he makes this book. That's why this book suited all of you.

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