



On the Move: A Life

By Oliver Sacks



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On the Move: A Life By Oliver Sacks

When Oliver Sacks was twelve years old, a perceptive schoolmaster wrote in his report: “Sacks will go far, if he does not go too far.” It is now abundantly clear that Sacks has never stopped going. From its opening pages on his youthful obsession with motorcycles and speed, *On the Move* is infused with his restless energy. As he recounts his experiences as a young neurologist in the early 1960s, first in California, where he struggled with drug addiction, and then in New York, where he discovered a long-forgotten illness in the back wards of a chronic hospital, we see how his engagement with patients comes to define his life.

With unbridled honesty and humor, Sacks shows us that the same energy that drives his physical passions—weight lifting and swimming—also drives his cerebral passions. He writes about his love affairs, both romantic and intellectual; his guilt over leaving his family to come to America; his bond with his schizophrenic brother; and the writers and scientists—Thom Gunn, A. R. Luria, W. H. Auden, Gerald M. Edelman, Francis Crick—who influenced him. *On the Move* is the story of a brilliantly unconventional physician and writer—and of the man who has illuminated the many ways that the brain makes us human.



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On the Move: A Life By Oliver Sacks Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #44913 in Books
- Brand: Knopf Publishing Group
- Published on: 2015-04-28
- Released on: 2015-04-28
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.50" h x 1.50" w x 5.80" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 416 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

An Amazon Best Book of May 2015: Oliver Sacks' *On the Move* is a disarming book. His honesty, energy, and clear restlessness illuminate each page, drawing the reader in to a life of great achievement in spite of some hurdles. The highest of those hurdles may have been his difficulty with romantic love. The origin of that difficulty can be traced to his mother's severe reaction upon learning that he was gay: she called him "an abomination." Sacks forgave his mother for that, even if he couldn't shake her words. His solution appears to have been just to move on and keep moving—and the entire book is imbued with a sense of movement. This can be seen in his love of motorcycles and weight lifting, in his desire to travel, in his move from England to the United States, and even when he writes of his former addiction to amphetamines. Of course his mind was moving at all times as well, and in this book Sacks continues to write convincingly about the ways our minds make us human. Despite claiming shyness, Sacks amassed an impressive list of friends and acquaintances—from the poets Thom Gunn, Richard Selig, and W.H. Auden, to Francis Crick and Stephen Jay Gould, to Robert De Niro and Robin Williams. And there was always the writing. "I am a storyteller, for better and for worse," he writes at the end of the book. When I read that line, I realized that I felt like he was sitting in the same room with me. -- *Chris Schluep*

Review

****A New York Times Notable Book of 2015****

Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times*

"Dr. Sacks writes not only with a doctor's understanding of medicine and science but also with a Chekhovian sympathy for his patients and a metaphysical appreciation of their emotional quandaries....That writing, which Dr. Sacks says gives him a pleasure 'unlike any other,' has also been a gift to his readers—of erudition, sympathy and an abiding understanding of the joys, trials and consolations of the human condition."

Lauren Slater, *Los Angeles Review of Books*

"The summation of a life lived with so much breadth and depth that it serves as a primer for how to navigate human existence with humor, humility, passion, speed, intelligence, and ongoing grace — the tale tying together all the stories Sacks has published in his lifetime.... In this book, Sacks reveals himself as a writer, laying bare the process, which was sometimes exquisitely painful and sometimes straightforward; it's a rare behind-the-scenes glimpse into how one of this country's most beloved physicians and authors actually plies his craft....Sacks is so vulnerable, so naked, so exposed in the telling of his life that the reader wants to fall in love with him, because what else can you do when a person such as Sacks gives you the gift of such honesty?.... *On the Move* can be read in many different ways.... In the end, though, what the reader walks away with, or rather, what this reader walked away with, was a field guide on how to live an excellent life, moment by moment, mile by mile, making each droplet count."

Colin McGinn, *Wall Street Journal*

"This is a very striking book by a very striking man. It is honest, lucid, passionate, humorous, humane and human (also slightly Martian). The Oliver Sacks you thought you knew may surprise you with his back story..."

Carmela Ciuraru, San Francisco Chronicle

“No matter what he writes about — whether struggling to understand what his patients are going through, or describing his love of swimming or photography — Sacks always seems open to learning more. He appears keenly interested in everything and everyone he encounters. He’s a wonderful storyteller, a gift he says he inherited from his parents, both of whom were doctors. But as he proves again in his latest...book, it’s his keen attentiveness as a listener and observer, and his insatiable curiosity, that makes his work so powerful.”

Heller McAlpin, LA Times

“On the Move is filled with both wonder and wonderments....Sacks’ discursive, revealing memoir chronicles his surprising route to becoming the bard of brain disorders. Pit stops along the way include his biker days (in which he went by his middle name, Wolf), avid weightlifting, experimentation with psychotropic drugs leading to amphetamine addiction, numerous brushes with death, lifelong passion for long-distance swims, and so many carelessly lost manuscripts you can’t help but wonder about Freudian slips. The vivid self-portrait that emerges is of an immoderate risk taker with a brilliant ‘wildly associative mind,’ an enthusiast who regards ‘all neurology, everything as a sort of adventure.’ A teacher’s astute assessment best sums up Sacks’ nature: ‘Sacks will go far, if he does not go too far.’ He has frequently pushed the limits.”

Suzanne Koven, Boston Globe

“Sacks’ empathy and intellectual curiosity, his delight in, as he calls it, ‘joining particulars with generalities’ and, especially, ‘narratives with neuroscience’ —have never been more evident than in his beautifully conceived new book, On The Move. This meta memoir, in which Sacks reconsiders aspects of his life and work that he’s written about in a dozen previous books, is remarkably candid and deeply affecting.”

Colette Bancroft, Tampa Bay Times

“On the Move is entertaining and illuminating and sometimes shocking, and it’s given a deep tinge of poignancy by Sacks’ public announcement in February that he has terminal cancer. If On the Move is his effort, at age 81 and in the face of death, to record a life well lived, he has succeeded beautifully.”

Laura Miller, Salon

“On the Move is an enchanting window on just how much vitality you can pack into four-score years on this planet...”

Tyghe Trimble, Men’s Journal

“What you likely don’t know about Sacks is that he once held a weightlifting record in California, is a serious motorcycle enthusiast, and fell in love at 77. Such moments make On the Move a compelling read. The memoir offers a glimpse into one of the greatest minds of our time, made all the more special by the knowledge that it’s one of his last gifts to a devoted readership.”

Jennie Yabroff, Biographile

“You finish On the Move with a sense of wonder and admiration.”

Melissa Pierson, Daily Beast

“...an unforgettably passionate, joyous journey.”

Jeff Milo, Paste

“An ebullient telling of a remarkable life.”

Dan Cryer, Newsday

"Learning to come to terms with unique patients has given Oliver Sacks permission to come to terms with himself. And what a self this book reveals! A man animated by boundless curiosity, wide-ranging intelligence, gratitude for flawed humanity, perseverance despite setbacks.... Oliver Sacks can never be replaced. We're lucky to have all the books, including On the Move. It's intensely, beautifully, incandescently alive."

Alden Mudge, BookPage

"In these pages, Sacks is always on the move, leaping adroitly from one topic to the next. We are swept along by the velocity of his account of a long and eventful life."

About the Author

Oliver Sacks is the author of twelve previous books, including *The Mind's Eye*, *Musicophilia*, *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat*, and *Awakenings* (which inspired both the Oscar-nominated film and a play by Harold Pinter). *The New York Times* has referred to Dr. Sacks as "the poet laureate of medicine," and he is a frequent contributor to *The New Yorker* and *The New York Review of Books*. He lives in New York City, where he is a professor of neurology at the NYU School of Medicine.

www.oliversacks.com

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Betty Benner:

Do you have favorite book? If you have, what is your favorite's book? Guide is very important thing for us to understand everything in the world. Each e-book has different aim or perhaps goal; it means that book has different type. Some people truly feel enjoy to spend their time and energy to read a book. They are reading whatever they take because their hobby is definitely reading a book. What about the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, particular person feel need book after they found difficult problem or exercise. Well, probably you will want this On the Move: A Life.

Crystal Freeman:

Why? Because this On the Move: A Life is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will shock you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who write the book in such incredible way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any more or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of gains than the other book have got such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking method. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I were being you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

Sanjuanita Mecham:

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