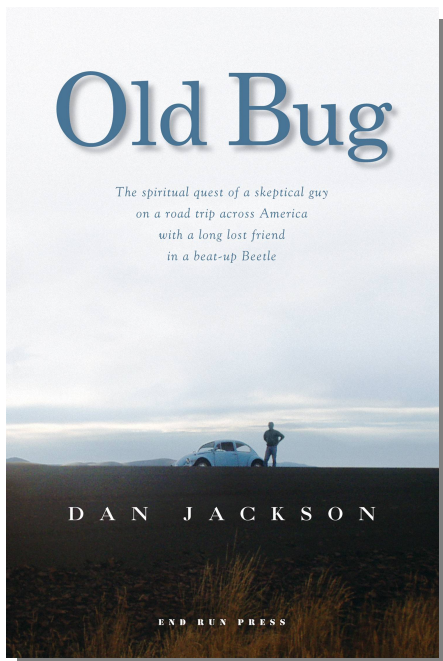


Old Bug

*The spiritual quest of a skeptical guy on a road trip across America
with a long lost friend in a beat-up Beetle*

DAN JACKSON



If you were invited by a friend you had barely seen in 30 years to drive across the country in a 69 VW Bug for “spiritual benefit”, would you go?

Old Bug is the true story of a cross-country road trip that begins with a mysterious e-mail from an old friend the author has hardly spoken to since high school, inviting him on a drive from Oregon to New Jersey. Intrigued by what such a self-declared spiritual journey might hold for a chronic skeptic like himself, he accepts. Having abandoned traditional religion long ago, he decides to use the trip to reflect upon what he *does* believe—not just about God, but about morality, mortality, meaning—the whole so-called spiritual side of life.

Only after signing on does he find out that his friend’s car is a stripped down, 32-year-old Beetle—and that his underlying reason for making this trip is to reunite with a family he’s been avoiding all his adult life. Their conversations, and conflicting ways of dealing with both life in general and the setbacks they encounter on the road, take us on a riveting adventure across 21st century America and the battleground between fact and faith.

Old Bug is an oddly mythic, often hilarious, ultimately uplifting, always human odyssey, as these two very different people join forces to keep a 69 VW Beetle alive long enough to reach the distant shores of home.

***A spiritual journey for people who steer clear of religion,
but still have to deal with life.***

Advance Praise for *Old Bug*:

There are books—and then there are books. The first category includes 99% of your average Barnes & Noble stock, while the second is made up of the paradigm-shifters, the perspective granters, the wonder-inducers—books that, once met, never leave you. Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance is in this lovely group, along with the works of Vonnegut and Sagan, Bill Bryson and Lewis Thomas. Now add Dan Jackson's Old Bug, a love-child of Pirsig and Joseph Campbell with a dash of Bryson, a deeply engaging blend of travel through the inner and outer worlds of one thoughtful and thought-filled man. His journey across the country in an uncertain vehicle is the perfect metaphor for the spiritual trek he takes in a vehicle no less temperamental—the questing and questioning mind. It will stick to your hands until you've finished, and stick to your mind long afterward.

Dale McGowan, author of **Parenting Beyond Belief**

A remarkable and engrossing true story... I loved reading about two middle aged men taking a voyage of self-discovery in an old Beetle. It is filled with funny episodes and also quite touching moments. A great read that I just couldn't put down. From the cover to the last word, this is one book I'm sure is destined for a hit.

Jessica Roberts, **BookPleasures.com**



About the author....

Dan Jackson is a 25-year veteran of nonfiction television. His credits include co-executive producer of the Discovery Channel series *Monster House*, series producer of *Crash Files* and the new WeTV series, *Twister Sisters*, as well as writing, directing and producing credits on many other series and specials. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife, daughter and dog. *Old Bug*, written over three years of early mornings and days off, is his first book.

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