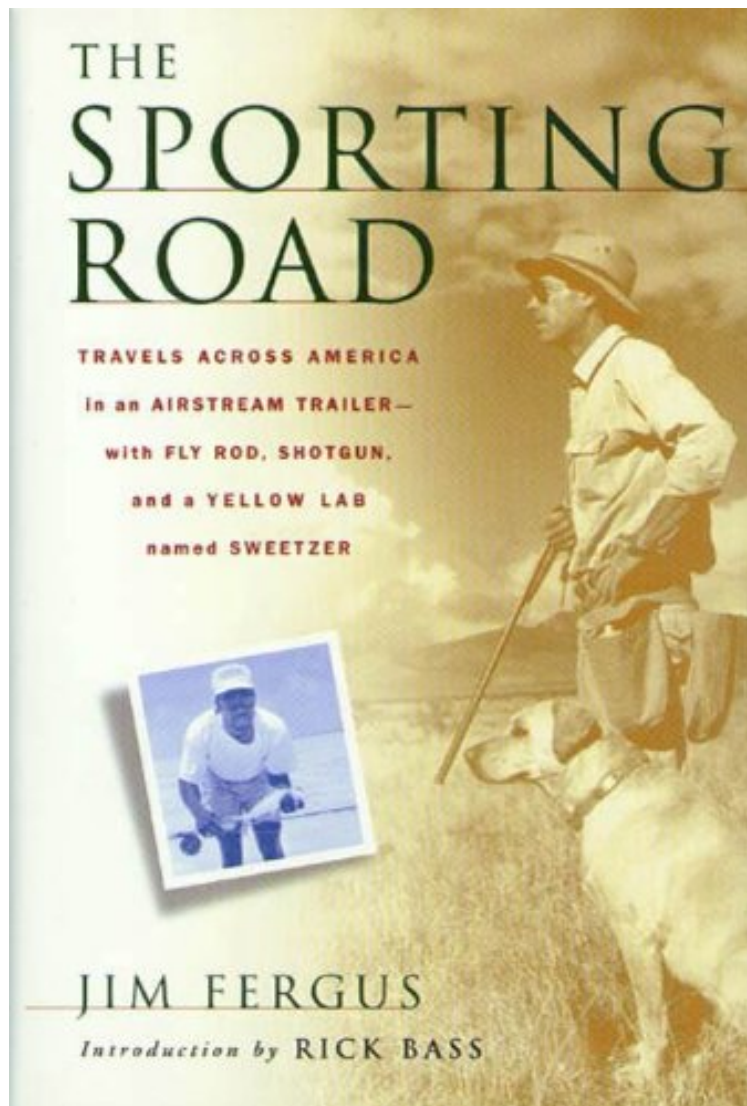


[Download] The Sporting Road: Travels Across America in an Airstream Trailer--with Fly Rod, Shotgun, and a Yellow Lab Named Sweetzer

## The Sporting Road: Travels Across America in an Airstream Trailer--with Fly Rod, Shotgun, and a Yellow Lab Named Sweetzer

Von Jim Fergus

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Von Jim Fergus : **The Sporting Road: Travels Across America in an Airstream Trailer--with Fly Rod, Shotgun, and a Yellow Lab Named Sweetzer** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Sporting Road: Travels Across America in an Airstream Trailer--with Fly Rod, Shotgun, and a Yellow Lab Named Sweetzer:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A book for non-sportsmen, tooVon Ron Franscell, Author of 'Morgue: A Life in Death'If you've ever thought about a fisherman's life on the banks of a trout stream or knee-deep in the Bahamian surf, or just contemplated why the seasons change colors, you might want to hitch a ride with Jim Fergus.The self-described "hook-and-bullet hack" -- in fact, one of the most thoughtful hunting and fishing writers in America, a field editor for Sports Afield magazine -- travels "The Sporting Road" like Kerouac with a fly rod and a 12-gauge, where every stream is a stream of consciousness. As you cruise the blue highways from Washington to Florida, Fergus muses about hunters' patient wives, sharptail grouse, bamboo fly-rods, the coming of snow, bonefishing, Native American culture, lives worth living, the perils facing small towns, good dogs and good friends. There's a certain poetry that emanates from somewhere deep down, an echo of a primitive time, brought up-to-date by Airstream trailers, Coleman grills and, for better or worse, Eddie Bauer.This is a good book for non-hunters and non-anglers, the most militant of whom assume avid sportsmen have little conscience or intellect. Fergus proves otherwise. He is an eloquent spokesman for the sporting life, not defensive and clearly thoughtful. If you've ever wanted to understand the allure of frigid mornings in high-plains cornfields, or soggy nights on the banks of an unknown river, or why a hunter would drive for two days for a fleeting glimpse of a bird too small for dinner on its own, read "The Sporting Road."0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A story about Hunters more than hunting.Von Matthew A. SkemboI finished reading "The Sporting Road," by Jim Fergus, last night. I really enjoyed the book. He is a very good writer, however, I am not "old hat" at most of the wing shooting and other sporting pursuits so I would have enjoyed it more if he had told his story with some more sporting "nuggets" (tips). Jim has a few "nuggets" when he goes to Shooting School and when he and friend Fly Fish in a stream next to a resort town's favorite jogging path. I would have liked for him to go more deeply into hunting methods and skills. Fergus is a humble hunter, almost to fault, he dose not brag much. I would have liked him to brag on his dog a bit more. He seems to have a great hunting partner in Sweets, At one point she makes a retrieve of a bird that he did not think was dead. More of the book is spent on the life of a hunter, on the road, than on the hunt. But I guess those are the things that stick out in his memory. "The Sporting Road" romanticizes the life of hunters who are rarely understood in today's pop culture. If any one has ever understood that the journey is more important than the destination, it would be Jim Fergus.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. This book took me back to a time ... not long ago.Von Gerald BatsonUnfortunately, for me, I was well past middle age (55) before I ever ventured into the woods with a shotgun looking for some game.I was very excited about my first hunt and after three days of not seeing any game, I realized that during that time, I had changed ... from a novice hunter to a man in love with the outdoors.I may not have seen any game but I saw the trees (seemed like the first time) ... and the grass, the river, the lake, the fields, the sun and shadows, the clouds drifting overhead.I listened to the wind, the sounds the trees make when they rub together, the rustling of the grass.In spite of the fact that I carried a weapon and moved thru the woods in a predatory mode (or maybe because of it) I experienced a sense of peace and wonder that I hadn't known since I was a child ... and I loved every moment of it.I felt safe, at one with my surroundings ... I felt like I belonged there.Reading this book brought me back to that place ... and it made me long to get back in the woods as soon as I can.This book spoke to my heart.Thank you Mr. Fergus.

KurzbeschreibungMore than just a "man and his dog" hunting adventure, *The Sporting Road* is a book about the land and man's place in it. It is also, in many ways, a book about relationships; with nature, animals, and the people with who live around us. As Rick Bass says in his introduction, Jim Fergus is a man for whom "The common denominator is not geographical, but internal; here is a man who belongs intensely to the living. And slowly, gradually -- essay by essay -- you become aware of the unsaid: the fact that he fits a diminishing time, a diminishing space, and a diminishing code of manners. That he always puts others before him; that he considers and respects his friends, his prey, his dogs, and the landscapes that engage these things."From BooklistColorado outdoor writer Fergus' essays celebrate bird hunting, friends, dogs, fishing, Native American culture, and the American countryside. Hunting and fishing are his primary concerns, and the majority of the pieces are about hunting turkeys, geese, grouse, partridge, and quail and fishing for bonefish, tarpon, bass, and trout. The sporting activity takes place as Fergus works his way across the country in an Airstream trailer with only his dog, Sweetzer, for company. In addition to accounts of his adventures in pursuit of fish and fowl, Fergus offers vivid descriptions of obscure wildlands in North Dakota, Nebraska, and elsewhere as well as appealing vignettes about cooking, camping, and the people he meets on the road. Insightful observations on the perils facing small towns and farms bring a touch of social consciousness to the easygoing, personable memoir. This book will appeal to those who enjoy the outdoor writing of William Tapply (see below) and Russell Chatham. John RowenFrom Kirkus sHandsome, deliberative hunting vignettes, many collected from the column *Fergus (A Hunters Road: A Journey with Gun and Dog Across the American Upland, 1992, etc.)* wrote for *Sports Afield*. Ranging far and wide in his beaten Suburban, following the seasons (which provide the book with its superstructure), towing an Airstream and a company of dogs, Fergus hunts up hunting venues and friends, then

fashions from them these neat sketches. Its clear from the start that Fergus is where he wants to be, outside, peeling back the dead skin and exposing a clean surface, drinking in the miracle and wonder of walking with a dog, a shotgun, and a well-chosen comrade in the uplands and draws and river bottoms. He talks of the attentiveness demanded of, and the grace conferred on, the hunter, visits the rarified and inaccessible homeplace of the white-tailed ptarmigan, fly fishes from a sea kayak in skinny water and gets towed by his catch (yes, shades of Papa, but Fergus's own). There are enough frustrations and minor disastersruined days when caught mistakenly trespassing on a very ill-disposed farmer's land, dogs meeting the wrong end of a porcupine or the lightning-quick hooves of a muleso that when you read ``opening day dawned a fine cool September morning," or that on the estate he was hunting in Florida ``a dense fog settled over the massive live oaks that were hung in Spanish moss like oxidized tinsel," you actually feel good for the guy. Not all is an unqualified succes two of the fishing pieces sound more like writing assignments than experiences, and there is a hunt with Rick Bass in the Yaak Valley that aspires to portents and magic and falls way short. But the duds are few. It is Bass who writes in an introduction that Fergus ``considers and respects his friends, his prey, his dogs, and the landscapes that engage these things." That makes Fergus a rare and real presence in any world, hunting or otherwise. (photos, not seen) -- Copyright 1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.