

PRESS RELEASE
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On Track to Making Sense of Life's Unpredictable Journey

KENSINGTON, MD – Eric D. Goodman has spent years on the road, reading stories and winning praise from scores of listeners. The long-time Baltimore resident is a versatile writer with a successful weblog, *Writeful*, a children's book, *Flightless Goose*, and a knack for performing public readings of his works. He now has found a place to lay his *Tracks*, his first novel in stories.

Independent press Atticus Books, a Maryland-based publishing house, has announced that Goodman's debut novel, *Tracks* – described by one reviewer as a “Tarantino-style 'Love Actually' meets literary fiction” – will be among its highly anticipated 2011 summer releases.

“A voyeuristic fantasy fulfilled...”
~ Aaron Henkin, Baltimore's NPR
Station, WYPR

Tracks takes place on an Amtrak train traveling from Baltimore to Chicago. Each story is told from the perspective of a passenger on the train. They are the strangers we meet every day: a soldier, a salesman, a computer geek, a Holocaust survivor, couples in love, a woman who has lost her parents, a poet, a hit man.

From nefarious goings-on in a Fells Point row house to prestigious partying on Federal Hill, Goodman's Baltimore is immediately recognizable and real.

The stories in *Tracks* stand alone, but they become stronger when linked together. A secondary character in one story becomes the main character in the next.

“In *Tracks*, Goodman skillfully weaves stories of chance encounters, lost opportunities and new beginnings into a tight, colorful, breathtaking tapestry...”
- Bathsheba Monk,
author of *Nude Walker* and *Now You See It ...*

Tracks examines the decisions each character faces and how those decisions, as well as their interactions with the other passengers, alter the path ahead and cast past experiences and choices in a new light.

Tracks: A Novel in Stories
Eric D. Goodman

Atticus Trade Paperback Original
\$15.95
6x9, 316 pages
ISBN: 978-0-9845105-7-3

Publication date: June 30, 2011

Advance Praise for *TRACKS*

“Eric Goodman's *Tracks* is a most cunningly crafted tale—a perfect read for trains, planes and automobiles... or even for your armchair.”

- Madison Smartt Bell, author of *All Souls' Rising*

“Eric D. Goodman's *Tracks* is an absolute delight. The beautifully written stories of strangers riding the same train will hypnotically pull you in and captivate you to the very end.”

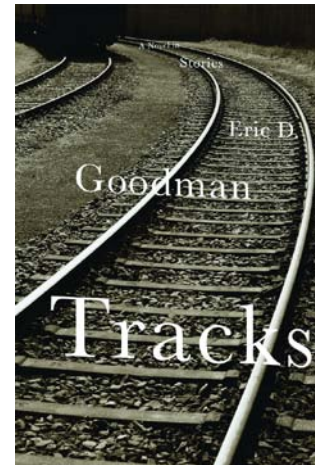
- Jessica Anya Blau, author of *Drinking Closer to Home* and *The Summer of Naked Swim Parties*

“From the first story in Eric D. Goodman's novel in stories, *Tracks*, I knew I was in for an enjoyable ride. Goodman is a keen, compassionate and refreshingly un-ironic observer of the human condition. In *Tracks*, Goodman skillfully weaves stories of chance encounters, lost opportunities and new beginnings into a tight, colorful, breathtaking tapestry which he says is a train ride, but seems an awful lot like life.”

- Bathsheba Monk, author of *Nude Walker* and *Now You See It ...*

“In the best literary tradition of *The Decameron*, *The Canterbury Tales*, and *Spoon River Anthology*, Goodman's novel-in-stories reveals the rich textures and patterns in the tapestry of human experience. *Tracks* is elemental storytelling.”

- D.R. Belz, author of *White Asparagus*



“In an age of commuter rush, virtual friends, and novels written in 140-character bursts, Eric D. Goodman reminds us of the richness of train travel or a good book: when the pace is slower, you never know what sort of souls will greet you.”

- Gregg A. Wilhelm, Executive Director, CityLit Project

“Goodman limns the lives of his characters—all travelers on the same train—with a light and sensitive touch, yet he manages to delve deep, right to their very hearts. By turns comic and poignant, these pilgrims are united in one significant way: they all seek to make sense of life's unpredictable journey.”

- Yona Zeldis McDonough, author of *Breaking the Bank*

“Who among us hasn't sat on a train and played at reading the minds of strangers? In this way, *Tracks* is a voyeuristic fantasy fulfilled. But here's the real surprise: Once you have mental telepathy, it's hard to call anyone a stranger anymore.”

- Aaron Henkin, Baltimore's NPR station, WYPR

“Eric D. Goodman is a virtuoso; he breathes life into each character in such a way that you want to know everything about them, and each story makes you want to read the next to see how these lives intersect. Even when *Tracks* ends, it continues in the mind, leaving you wanting to know more, thinking about not only the lives of these multi-faceted characters, but your own life and the lives of those around you. Life is a journey and *Tracks* captures that feeling in a way that few interconnected story collections do.”

- Nancy Greene, author
of *Portraits in the Dark*

“In *Tracks*, Goodman manages to capture the complicated push and pull of family, of friends, of history, of life—how it bears down on each of us, pulling us apart while simultaneously pushing us together. His characters are, in turn, compassionate, indifferent, bitter, sympathetic, wistful, and most of all, real. I recognized parts of myself in each one of them, and I imagine this is exactly what Goodman intended. *Tracks* is a wonderful debut.”

- Mary Beth Keane, author of
The Walking People

“Eric D. Goodman gets on board a fictional train from Baltimore to Chicago to tell the compelling stories of passengers taking inner journeys. From the couple who define the beauty of silence, to the last hurrah of a hit man, *Tracks* is insightful, engaging and, in so many ways, truly moving.”

- Toby Devens, author of *My Favorite Midlife Crisis (Yet)*

“I have long been a fan of Eric D. Goodman's taut naturalistic fiction, so I came to *Tracks* with almost unfairly high expectations. I was not disappointed. Read these linked stories separately for their rich textures, their well-drawn characters, and their breathtaking moments of epiphany. Then read them again in sequence, allowing the cumulative power, the subtle connections and insights to reach their full force. *Tracks* is an unforgettable journey that cuts deep furrows in both the inner and the outer landscape.”

- Patry Francis, author of *The Liar's Diary*

“In an age of twitter, microfiction, and small attention spans, the stories in Eric D. Goodman's *Tracks* are built on narrative fiction and the U.S. rail system, both of which are seemingly pronounced dead every new decade. But like a good meal, these stories of strangers on a train marinate and simmer, creating a flavor that is richer than their parts. Goodman's alternating harsh and tender stories travel the spectrum of human emotion, and his care for his characters is evident from the first page to the last. By the end, we have not only lived through every character, but we are every character.”

- Jen Michalski, author of
Close Encounters and *May-September*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Eric D. Goodman has been writing fiction since he was in the third grade, when a story assignment turned him on to the craft more than a quarter century ago. He regularly reads his fiction on Baltimore's NPR station, WYPR, and at book festivals and literary events. His work has appeared in a number of publications, including *The Baltimore Review*, *The Pedestal Magazine*, *Writers Weekly*, *The Potomac*, *Grub Street*, *Scribble Magazine*, *The Arabesques Review*, and *New Lines from the Old Line State: An Anthology of Maryland Writers*. Eric is the author of *Flightless Goose*, a storybook for children.

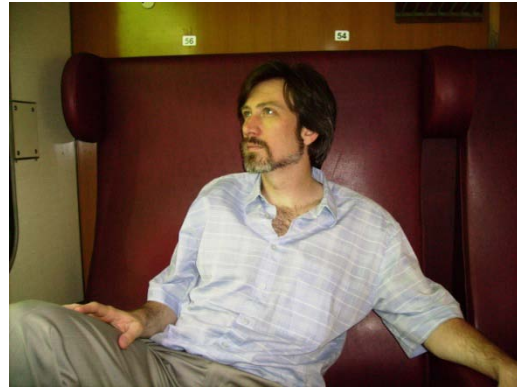
Tracks is his first novel.

Learn more about *Tracks* at www.TracksNovel.com

To become part of *Tracks* community join the author and other passengers in the Facebook Lounge Car:
www.facebook.com/pages/Tracks-the-lounge-car/182330691789512

Listen to the author read stories from *Tracks* on Baltimore's NPR station, WYPR:
www.tracksnovel.com/radio-readings.html

Read excerpts from *Tracks* at www.tracksnovel.com/excerpts.html



Meet Eric at one of his scheduled stops:
www.tracksnovel.com/appearances.html

Find out what others are saying about *Tracks* at www.tracksnovel.com/reviews.html

Keep track of all of Eric's writings, visit him at www.Writeful.blogspot.com or "friend" him at www.facebook.com/edgewriter

For additional information on Atticus Books, the publisher of *Tracks*, visit <http://atticusbooksonline.com> or e-mail danc@atticusbooks.net

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