

EATING EUROPE

A META-NONFICTION LOVE STORY

JON VOLKMER

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Writing Travel Series, edited by Jeanne Moskal

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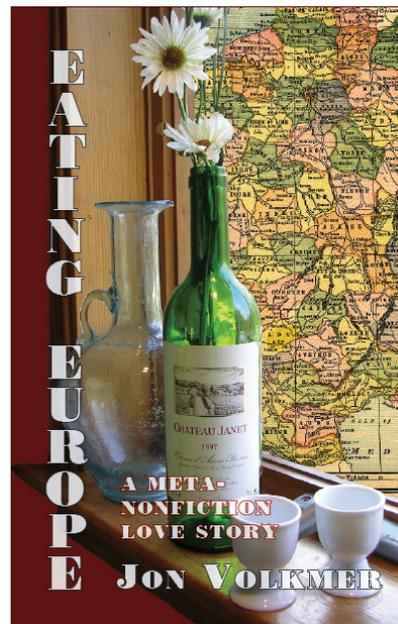
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DESCRIPTION

EATING EUROPE is travel writing in its most hilarious, poignant, and consequential form. Jon has a grant to do “travel writing” in Europe. From Amsterdam to Alsace, the tourist life is good. He and Janet eat and drink and spar with breezy affection while Jon pays scant attention to his project. As they drive on toward southern France, it becomes clear that something has gone very wrong—not in the journey itself, but in the telling of the journey. Jon the author steps in to explain that he had stopped writing for three years. In the meantime, there is 9/11, WMDs, Saddam Hussein. Janet has launched into activism and spiraled into depression. Jon has gone to France to try to finish the book, in the very month of the Iraq invasion, at the height of America’s anti-French hysteria. The gloom of the real world bleeds into his writing—where it find parallels in the pain of personal relationship and in the lies of every claim of “nonfiction.” In the end, EATING EUROPE strives for reconciliations: the author to his wife, the wife to her character, the author to his work, the work to its genre, America to France.

About the Author

Jon Volkmer has written more than a dozen travel features for newspapers and magazines. He is director of creative writing at Ursinus College, where he teaches seminars on travel literature and leads workshops in travel writing. He is an award-winning fiction writer, essayist and poet, with publications in such journals as PARNASSUS, PRAIRIE SCHOONER, TEXAS REVIEW, and PAINTED BRIDE QUARTERLY. He holds an MA in Creative Writing from Denver University, and a PhD in English from the University of Nebraska.



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