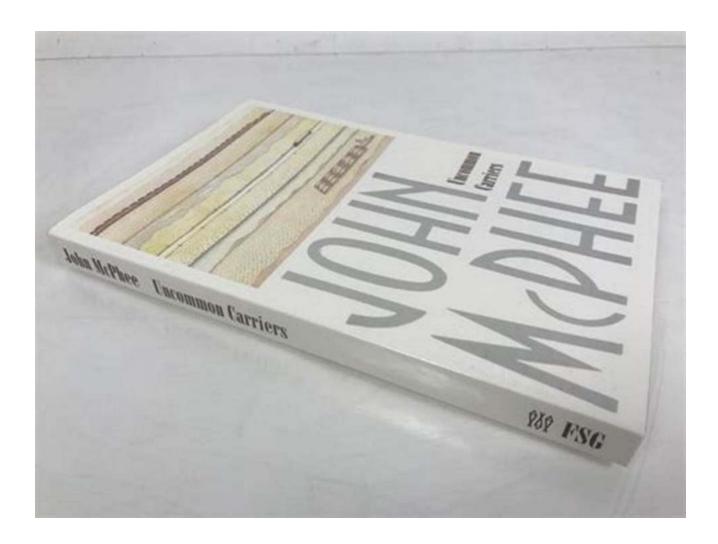
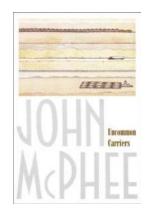
# The Fascinating Journey of Uncommon Carriers by John McPhee: Discovering America's Hidden Transportation Networks



Have you ever wondered about the intricate web of transportation that keeps our modern world running smoothly? In his acclaimed book "Uncommon Carriers," Pulitzer Prize-winning author John McPhee takes us on a captivating journey across America. Join us as we delve into the fascinating world of Uncommon Carriers, uncovering hidden concepts, remarkable stories, and surreal experiences that lie within the pages of this extraordinary work.

#### **Exploring America's Transportation Networks**

Transportation is an integral part of our daily lives, and yet we often overlook the vast networks supporting our modern lifestyle. In "Uncommon Carriers," McPhee peels back the curtain to reveal the extraordinary world of transportation that operates outside the public eye. He digs deep into various industries, from trucking and railroads to barges and shipping, offering a comprehensive exploration of how goods and services are transferred across the nation.



#### **Uncommon Carriers** by John McPhee (Kindle Edition)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 4.5 out of 5 Language : English File size : 354 KB Text-to-Speech : Enabled Screen Reader : Supported Enhanced typesetting: Enabled X-Ray : Enabled Word Wise : Enabled Print length : 257 pages



Unlike typical travelogues, "Uncommon Carriers" goes beyond the glamour of tourist destinations. McPhee takes us behind the scenes, introducing us to the unsung heroes who keep our economy moving. Through his meticulous research, he unveils the complexity and challenges faced by these individuals to deliver products to our doorsteps, giving us a newfound appreciation for the unseen efforts required to sustain our way of life.

#### **Uncovering Hidden Concepts**

With an unrivaled ability to turn mundane subjects into gripping narratives,
McPhee introduces us to the unexpected aspects of transportation. He delves
into the intricacies of navigation on the Mississippi River, the unconventional

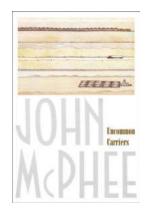
machinery used in carrying oversize cargo, and the perilous world of ice roads. Each chapter offers a unique insight into a specific mode of transportation, filled with rich and often surprising details.

One of the most captivating chapters in "Uncommon Carriers" takes us on a journey with UPS, revealing the meticulous organization required to ship millions of packages every day. McPhee shares stories of the logistics involved in ensuring on-time delivery, the challenges faced during peak seasons, and the fascinating technology that enables this colossal operation.

#### **Surreal Experiences Along the Way**

McPhee's ability to immerse himself in his subjects creates vivid and unforgettable moments throughout the book. We join him on a towboat ride along the Illinois River, feel the claustrophobic tunnels of New York's subway system, and witness the skills required to steer massive container ships through narrow channels. These firsthand experiences allow readers to gain an intimate understanding of the intricacies and nuances of each transportation mode, making "Uncommon Carriers" a truly immersive journey.

Through "Uncommon Carriers," John McPhee shines a light on the often unseen world of transportation, connecting readers with the vital systems that keep our society functioning seamlessly. His attention to detail, engaging storytelling, and ability to capture the essence of each transportation mode make this book an extraordinary read for anyone curious about the inner workings of our global economy. Whether you have a passion for travel, logistics, or simply want to explore the hidden corners of America's transportation networks, "Uncommon Carriers" delivers a captivating and informative experience that will leave you in awe of the astonishing infrastructure that surrounds us.



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What John McPhee's books all have in common is that they are about real people in real places. Here, at his adventurous best, he is out and about with people who work in freight transportation.

Over the past eight years, John McPhee has spent considerable time in the company of people who work in freight transportation. Uncommon Carriers is his sketchbook of them and of his journeys with them. He rides from Atlanta to Tacoma alongside Don Ainsworth, owner and operator of a sixty-five-foot, eighteen-wheel chemical tanker carrying hazmats. McPhee attends ship-handling school on a pond in the foothills of the French Alps, where, for a tuition of \$15,000 a week, skippers of the largest ocean ships refine their capabilities in twenty-foot scale models. He goes up the "tight-assed" Illinois River on a "towboat" pushing a triple string of barges, the overall vessel being "a good deal longer than the Titanic." And he travels by canoe up the canal-and-lock commercial waterways traveled by Henry David Thoreau and his brother, John, in a homemade skiff in 1839.

Uncommon Carriers is classic work by McPhee, in prose distinguished, as always, by its author's warm humor, keen insight, and rich sense of human character.

Heirs Of
General
Practice John
McPhee

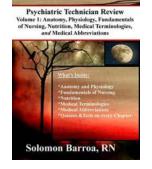
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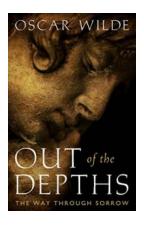
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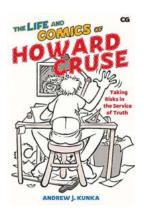
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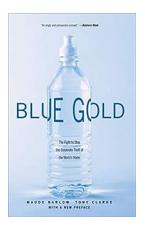
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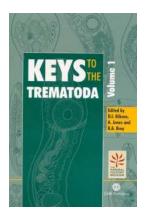
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uncommon carriers john mcphee