RAILROAD SEMANTICS #1
by AARON DACTYL

“Hiding in railroad yards, hopping freight trains, scenic panoramas, hobo camps, documenting railroad art, the joys of open air freedom, and the frustrations of living rough are all the focus of Railroad Semantics. Equal parts travel diary and railroad news roundup, it feels so immediate and adventurous that you can feel the breeze in the boxcar. A great artifact about railroad culture.” —One Minute Zine Reviews

“The description of the characters, the landscape and trains Aaron meets on this trip make it seem like you are there. I have never jumped a train and at this point in my life doubt that I ever will, but this great little book makes me feel like I was there. Lots of great photos of the scenery of ride and great hobo art.” —410 Media

Devoted to trainhopping and train culture, Railroad Semantics describes the sights, sounds, successes, and defeats of riding around the U.S. in near poetic detail. Between the exhausting waits in sparse canyons, and breezy sunny rides into Eugene, Aaron Dactyl makes riding trains sound like a grand adventure. There are pasted in news stories about railroad related incidents and some interesting local articles about the railroads including: shipping trash to landfills by train, Junction City’s lawsuit against the rail company, and a landslide. Full of absolutely gorgeous photographs of landscapes and hobo graffiti! A poetic sense of adventure captured in words, pictures, and scenic vistas!

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Comparable Titles
Mostly True Bill Daniel $8 2008
9780978866525 (Microcosm Publishing)
One More Train to Ride $17.95 2009
9780253216526 (Indiana University)
The Hobo Handbook $14.95 2011
9781440512278 (Adams Media)

Aaron Dactyl is a hobo living in Eugene, OR. He has been traveling via freights since the 90s and documenting these trips through his zine, Railroad Semantics.

Microcosm Publishing strives to add credibility to zine writers and their ethics, teach self empowerment, show hidden history, and nurture people’s creative side! Now based in Lansing, KS and Portland, OR, Joe Biel started the distro and then-record-label out of his bedroom in 1996. Since then we’ve grown to become one of the largest zine distributors in the world, reaching an international audience through our website and retail store.