

The Surf Guru

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✓ Verified Book of The Surf Guru

## Summary:

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A book of brilliant, adventurous stories from the award-winning Doug Dorst.

With the publication of his debut novel, *Alive in Necropolis*, Doug Dorst was widely celebrated as one of the most creative, original literary voices of his generation—an heir to T.C. Boyle and Denis Johnson, a northern California Haruki Murakami. Now, in his second book, *The Surf Guru*, his full talent is on display, revealing an ability to explore worlds and capture characters that other writers have not yet discovered.

In the title story, an old surfing-champion-turned-surfwear-entrepreneur sits on his ocean-front balcony watching a new generation of surfers come of age on the waves, all but one of whom wear wet suits emblazoned with the Surf Guru's name. An acid-tongued, pioneering botanist who has been exiled from the academy composes a series of scurrilous (and hilarious) biographical sketches of his colleagues and rivals, inadvertently telling his own story. A pair of twenty-first-century drifters course through a series of unusual adventures in their dilapidated car, chased west out of one town and into the next, dreaming of hitting the Pacific.

Dorst's characters have all successfully cultivated a particular expertise, and yet they remain intent on moving toward the horizon, seeking hope in something new. Likewise, each of Dorst's stories is a virtuoso performance balancing humor and insight, achieving a perfect pitch, pulsing with a gritty and punchy, distinctly American realism—and yet always pushing on into the unexpected, taking us some place new.

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