

I Get on the Bus: A Novel



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Award-winning author Reginald McKnight's first novel is the hallucinatory tale of an African American's quest for identity in two radically different cultures. In America Evan Norris enjoys all the comforts of a middle-class existence and the love of Wanda, a strong and fiercely intelligent woman who is determined to see Evan succeed in her world. Unfortunately

Evan would rather get stoned with a comfortable band of aging hippies who entice him to kick back and drop out. In a moment of surrender Evan joins the Peace Corps, setting out for Africa both to defer any sort of real commitment and to discover the black identity that so empowers Wanda. Several months later he finds himself in Senegal, a country both modern and ancient, where the real and the unreal are inseparably entwined.

Battling a malarial fever that blurs the edges of reality, Evan walks away from his meaningless post with the Peace Corps and into the life of Aminata, the beautiful, U.S.-educated daughter of a powerful local marabout. As their passion intensifies,

Evan's malarial-fever dreams become more and more real. He finds himself "on the bus," traveling with a recurrent group of locals, each one of whom he "becomes" in moments that lie between reality and delirium.

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