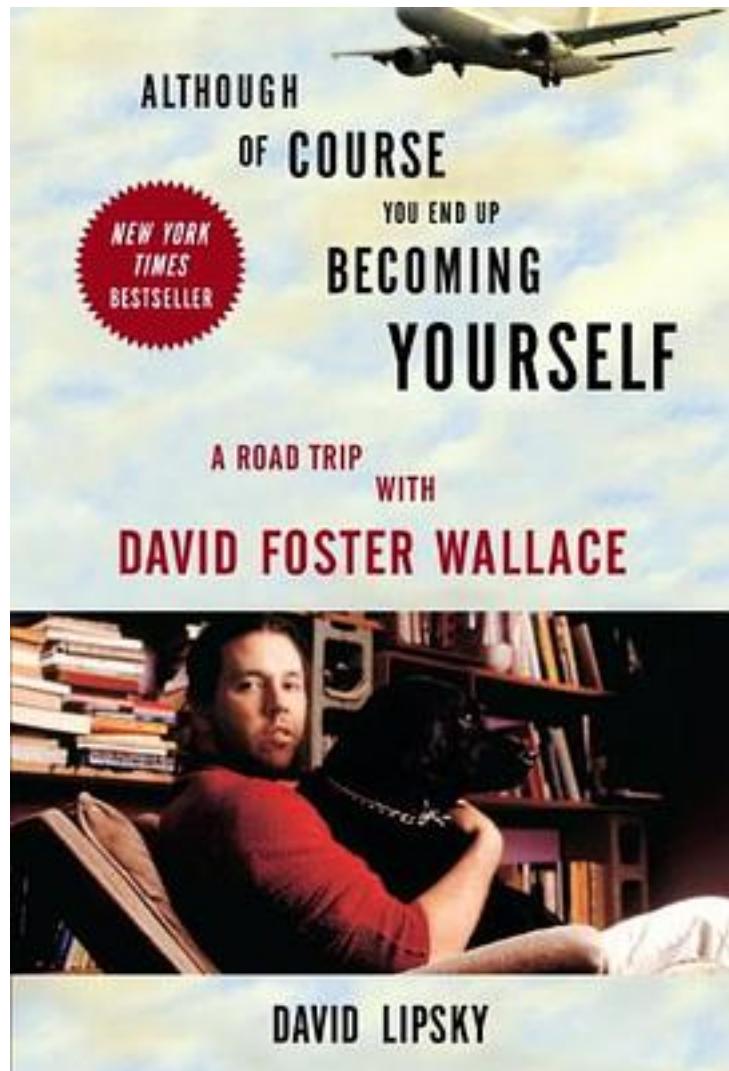


# Although Of Course You End Up Becoming Yourself



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If you can think of times in your life that you've treated people with extraordinary decency and love, and pure uninterested concern, just because they were valuable as human beings. The ability to do that with ourselves. To treat ourselves the way we would treat a really good, precious friend. Or a tiny child of ours that we absolutely loved more than life itself. And I think it's probably possible to achieve that. I think part of the job we're here for is to learn how to do it. I know that sounds a little pious.

-- David Foster Wallace

An indelible portrait of David Foster Wallace, by turns funny and inspiring, based on a five-day trip with award-winning writer David Lipsky during Wallace's Infinite Jest tour

In David Lipsky's view, David Foster Wallace was the best young writer in America. Wallace's pieces for Harper's magazine in the '90s were, according to Lipsky, "like hearing for the first time the brain voice of everybody I knew: Here was how we all talked, experienced, thought. It was like smelling the damp in the air, seeing the first flash from a storm a mile away. You knew something gigantic was coming."

Then Rolling Stone sent Lipsky to join Wallace on the last leg of his book tour for *Infinite Jest*, the novel that made him internationally famous. They lose to each other at chess. They get iced-in at an airport. They dash to Chicago to catch a make-up flight. They endure a terrible reader's escort in Minneapolis. Wallace does a reading, a signing, an NPR appearance. Wallace gives in and imbibes titanic amounts of hotel television (what he calls an "orgy of spectation"). They fly back to Illinois, drive home, walk Wallace's dogs. Amid these everyday events, Wallace tells Lipsky remarkable things—everything he can about his life, how he feels, what he thinks, what terrifies and fascinates and confounds him—in the writing voice Lipsky had come to love. Lipsky took notes, stopped envying him, and came to feel about him—that grateful, awake feeling—the same way he felt about *Infinite Jest*. Then Lipsky heads to the airport, and Wallace goes to a dance at a Baptist church.

A biography in five days, *Although Of Course You End Up Becoming Yourself* is David Foster Wallace as few experienced this great American writer. Told in his own words, here is Wallace's own story, and his astonishing, humane, alert way of looking at the world; here are stories of being a young writer—of being young generally—trying to knit together your ideas of who you should be and who other people expect you to be, and of being young in March of 1996. And of what it was like to be with and—as he tells it—what it was like to become David Foster Wallace.

David Lipsky is a contributing editor at Rolling Stone magazine. His fiction and nonfiction have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Harper's Magazine*, *The Best American Short Stories*, *The Best American Magazine Writing*, *The New York Times*, *The New York Times Book Review*, and many other publications. He contributes as an essayist to NPR's *All Things Considered*, and is the recipient of a Lambert Fellowship, a Media Award from GLAAD, and a National Magazine Award. He's the author of the novel *The Art Fair*, a collection of stories, *Three Thousand Dollars*, and the bestselling nonfiction book *Absolutely American*, which was a *Time* magazine Best Book of the Year.

作者介绍:

David

Lipsky是《滚石》的特约编辑。他的小说和非小说出现在“纽约客”，“哈珀”，“最佳美国短篇小说集”，“美国最佳杂志写作”，“纽约时报”，“纽约时报书评”等等。他为NPR的所有事情做出了贡献，并获得了朗博奖学金，GLAAD的媒体奖和国家杂志奖。最畅销的非小说类作品“绝对美国”（尽管到最后，你还是成为你自己），获得了时代杂志年度最佳图书。

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标签

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DFW

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评论

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驚嘆於一個個體可以具備和承受的旺盛的生命力、感知力、表達的訴求和非凡的創造力。和這樣的人待上一天真的可以裨益一生吧。最近半年已經吹了無數次DFW了，真是一個很難被過譽的人，有趣的是這種讚譽或許只會被他自己嗤之以鼻。沒想到書是以電影中的彩蛋，去Baptist Church

跳舞結束的，果然對他來講還真是談戀愛不如跳舞（。全文最後一句看似很隨意：「Everyone's just, everyone more or less wants to leave each other alone.」

我在重复摸索的主题，DFW用漂亮的语言说出了同样的东西，and with great compassion.

他对语言是自信的，对内容则谦逊且极度认真。认为作家未必需要更聪明，而是能用更 compelling 的语言去表达内容——最重要的真实。这真实就是成长过程向人揭示的，任何普通的人也可能领悟。他写的正是成长。

DFW讲出了很多我们以为自己不知道但其实细想都懂的道理 醍醐灌顶

两个高智且真诚，又偷偷地相互欣赏和暗中较劲着的两个小伙。DW真的是非常非常好的人啊，唉。Lipsky也是。

ヽ(‘▽‘)ゝ

亲爱的Dave，亲爱的Stefan，I don't regret meeting you.

Dear David

这本书让我知道了DFW是一个多好的人。不光是聪明敏锐，而且很谦逊有同理心，把自己受过的痛苦变成文字，好让读者感到不那么孤独的人。我的确感到不那么孤独了。

He just couldn't take it

There's nothing there. Someone will watch u through a gap in the wall.

对抗孤独，DFW一生都在做的事，人类这个物种无法逃离之事。天才的头脑与柔软赤忱的内心，好像一块天鹅绒小心翼翼地包裹着黄金。感谢你让我知道我没有那么孤独。我没有那么聪明。我遇到的一切都没有那么糟。真的真的真的谢谢你

最开始读afterword很吃力，很多reference都不知道啥意思，后来就顺畅多了，作家之间的内行话看不懂就跳过去。很大的篇幅在讲成名之后如何应对，怎样看待生活的，喜欢DFW看事物的视角。

配点the end of the tour感受一下。

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## 书评

赶在把这书卖给多抓鱼之前挑一下翻译中的错吧。就挑其中几页的，因为错实在太多了挨个挑的话这篇文可能要写上十天十夜。之前就已经被这个翻译大人的华莱士译本坑过一次了，结果这次看华莱士访谈录还能二度被坑，也只能怪我以为他能把口语翻得好一点吧（当然并没有）。不知道国...

1996年3月5日，《滚石》杂志的记者大卫·利普斯基主动请缨，前往大卫·福斯特·华莱士的住所，并与他一起参与了后者为小说《无尽的玩笑》举办的巡回宣传活动。期间利普斯基用录音机和笔记本记录下的访谈内容一度被搁置，直到大卫·福斯特·华莱士去世后两年，以《尽管到最后，...

生活是什么？这个简单的问题，要给它一个准确的定义或完好的解释，可能要用上一些比较复杂的语句。当然，对于具体到每个正常的人来说，他或她都有权利回答，并且用自己的语言来高度概括自己的生活体会或对生活的感悟，这样或许一点也不会觉得复杂。然则，如果我们需要对生活进...

提起美国最重要的中生代作家大卫·福斯特·华莱士，很多人并不陌生，他曾经写过《系统的笤帚》《无尽的玩笑》等脍炙人口的小说，也曾经做过《生命中最简单又最困难的事》这种被称为“美国最具影响力的十大毕业演讲”。但就是这样一个人，最终因为抑郁症的困扰，于2008年在加利...

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