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YELLOW CAB

Benoit Cohen

Key Points

- A French film maker's sharply funny foray into life as a cab driver in New York
- Fascinating account of the city complete with a unique Directory of restaurants he visited when he was both on and off duty

Book Description

"On a nice evening in early June, Eleonore and I had just emerged from a restaurant in Fort Greene, the Brooklyn neighbourhood we had moved to a year earlier. We were strolling past the brownstones, enjoying the mild spring air when she voiced her concern about seeing me more or less at loose ends.

For the past 20 years, I had been making one film or series after another, and for the first time, I needed a break. Sometimes I even got the feeling I wanted to do something else, something more matter-of-fact, that would steep me in American culture and let me experience our new life to the fullest. I could be a waiter, a bartender, or a taxi driver. Taxi driver had been a long-standing joke between Eleonore and me. She had always admired my sense of direction, and would often tease me by saying, "If you ever get sick of making movies one day, you could always drive a cab."

Suddenly it hit me: What if we told the story of a Frenchman who comes to the US to pursue the American Dream? An actor who roams the streets of New York like the characters who inspired him? But over time his dream turns into a nightmare. Reality catches up to him and he's forced to eke out a living between auditions on Broadway.

He becomes a taxi driver, way at the bottom rung of the American social ladder and discovers the flipside of the dream.

And what if, in order to write the story from an insider's view, I got myself a license and became a yellow cab driver? Eleonore and I burst out laughing. What a crazy idea! Brilliant!"

About the Author

Born in 1969, **Benoit Cohen** is a French producer, filmmaker, and screenwriter. He has directed six feature films as well as numerous documentaries and television series in France. His latest movie, *You'll Be A Man*, was a significant success in film festivals in the United States, receiving 39 awards. Cohen moved to Brooklyn, New York, with his family in 2014.