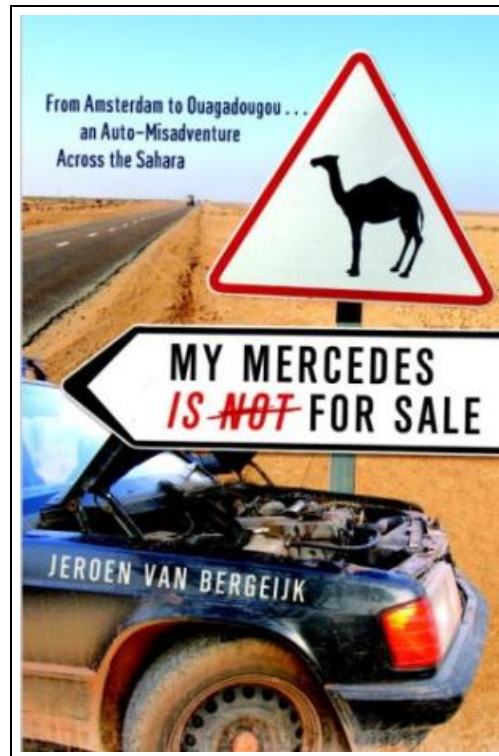


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Random House USA Inc, United States, 2008. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 196 x 132 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Oh Lord, won't you buy me a Mercedes Benz? --Janis Joplin A journalist's intrepid endeavor to sell his used car abroad results in a high-spirited and revealing look at West Africa. Look, there's my car, I say, pointing at my Mercedes in the parking lot. Where? a fellow desert traveler asks. There, that Mercedes, I say. He looks at me, questioning. You want to drive that through the Sahara? Jeroen van Bergeijk came up with what seemed like a great scheme for making a quick profit: buy a clunker of a car in his native Amsterdam and resell it in the Third World, where a market even for jalopies still thrives. His chariot of choice is a rusted-out 1988 Mercedes 190D with 220,000 kilometers on its odometer; his route will take him from Holland through Morocco, across the Sahara, and into some of the least trodden parts of Africa. My Mercedes Is Not for Sale is a rollicking tale of an innocent abroad. The author finds himself facing a driving challenge akin to the Dakar Rally but encounters obstacles never dreamed of by race-car drivers: active minefields, occasional banditry--mostly by the border guards--and a teenage, chain-smoking desert guide with a fondness for Tupac lyrics. Food and water are scarce, sandstorms are frequent, and all he has to patch up his many car breakdowns thousands of miles from civilization is a bar of soap, some duct tape, and a pair of women's nylons. Then there's the coup he survived. My Mercedes Is Not for Sale captures more than the adventure--it vividly portrays the impact of globalization on Africa through a surprise-filled journey into its thriving...



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