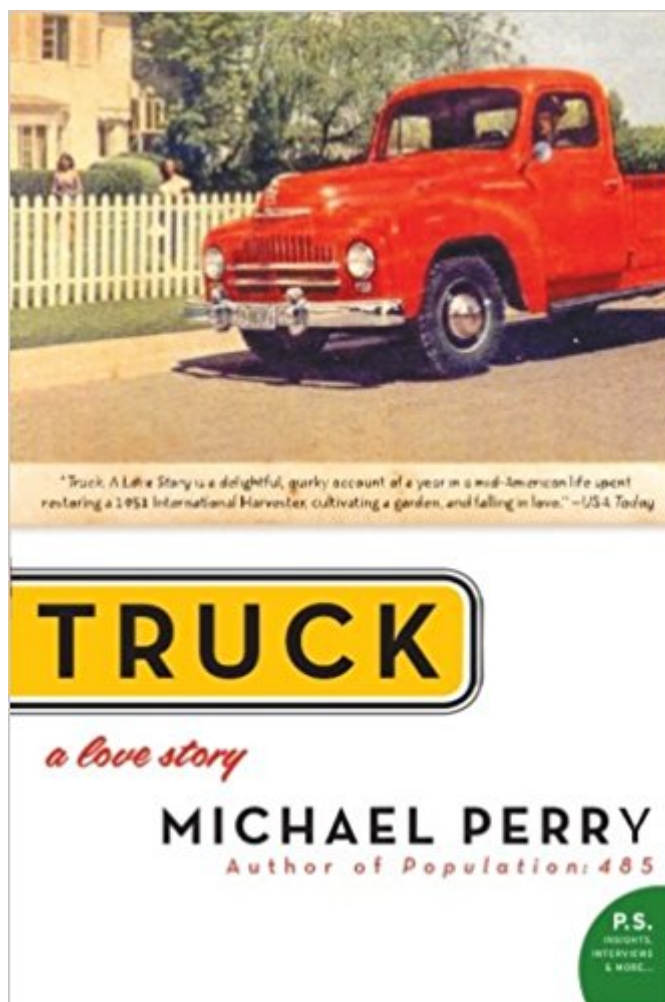


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## Truck: A Love Story (P.S.)



## Synopsis

“A touching and very funny account. . . . Thoroughly engaging.” —New York Times  
Hilarious and heartfelt, *Truck: A Love Story* is the tale of a man struggling to grow his own garden, fix his old pickup, and resurrect a love life permanently impaired by Neil Diamond. In the process, he sets his hair on fire, is attacked by wild turkeys, and proposes marriage to a woman in New Orleans. The result is a surprisingly tender testament to love. Part Bill Bryson, part Anne Lamott, with a skim of Larry the Cable Guy and Walt Whitman creeping around the edges. —Lincoln Journal Star  
Perry takes each moment, peeling it, seasoning it with rich language, and then serving it to us piping hot and fresh. —Chicago Tribune

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (123 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #346,668 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #597 in Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Antiques & Collectibles #640 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Love, Sex & Marriage #2451 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National

## Customer Reviews

Michael Perry is a true writer. He knows how to turn an apt phrase and hits on what is True in life. His earlier book, *Population 485*, is one of my favorite books (it made me smile and made me cry) Where Perry succeeded greatly with *Population 485*, he nearly succeeds greatly here. Perry writes on the real deal about people-- the funny, the sad, the admirable, the eccentricities, as well as vulnerabilities and covered-up vulnerabilities (and his own vulnerabilities too) This is where he is wonderful, especially since he is down-to-earth. Perry has lots of human insights in *Truck*, however they come in a more-meandering writing style. Perry is still a great read, particularly when he is writing about human beings. Read *Population 485* if you haven't been introduced to Perry yet; there

is little out there that is any better. Truck is very much worth reading, easily worth 5 stars if it had a tightened focus. If you have particular interest in truck restoration (International Harvesters in particular); and/or in the daily delights of gardening -- then you may find these increased meanderings wonderful. Population 485 moved with more urgency but also had the delightful mix of insights and was a fast read. I've been living with (in?) Truck for nearly a week now, soaking in a couple chapters a day. So like the centerline chats Perry describes (shooting the breeze in the middle of the road, one vehicle stopped alongside another) Truck is a book that takes time. On reflection, Perry's meandering isn't a fault as much as it is an accurate depiction of his life. Appreciating and inhabiting this world takes time.

What a wonderful voice! He has a knack for choosing just the right words to bring the people to life. The story could be sentimental but it's not. It could be Lake Wobegon, but it's funnier. Michael Perry knows how to make you laugh, but even better than the words on the page is him telling the stories behind the stories. I listened to him read from his books, and this book zoomed right to the top of my Christmas list.

I flat love this book, just as I did Perry's previous work, "Population 485." But I have to admit, we live in parallel universes: We both call a gas pedal a foot feed (I think we both learned to drive on farm tractors), both had our marriages sanctified by dear friends who happened to be pseudo-ministers of tax-dodge churches, both have second lives as EMS volunteers in rural towns, and both have written books about restoring old vehicles that are actually books about our inner secrets. Michael Perry's book is way better than mine, and I'm glad of that, because his is not really about rebuilding a 1951 International Harvester pickup but about falling in love with his wife Anneliese as a middle-aged loner worried by commitment. May their marriage last forever and may this book be read and appreciated just as long, for it's a work in which every word is carefully chosen, something so rare in an age of lazy writing. It's a book about the glory of true love, and I'm sure that Perry knows John Prine's words....

While TRUCK: A LOVE STORY is a follow-up to the author's best-seller POPULATION: 485, no prior familiarity with that memoir or Perry is required to fall in love with TRUCK. Here are three main themes: restoring a 1950s International Harvest truck, cultivating a garden, and discovering romance late in life - all of which blend beautifully in a story of colorful small-town characters and enchantment. Love on many different levels is the theme unifying all, creating a delicate, involving

story which will appeal to general-interest audiences - even those with no prior connections to trucks or small towns! Diane C. Donovan California Bookwatch

Try - Truck by Michael Perry. I just finished an easy read book by a fellow from Wisconsin. He calls it a love story. I guess you will find three or more love stories in the book. But the prime is a 1951 International Harvester L120 Pickup Truck. He writes: "Those of us who covet International Pickups nurture a perverse sort of pride. Open the cab and you may catch a whiff of geek. As trucks go, International lacks the pop culture resonance of a Ford or Chevy, nor do they have the arcane appeal of the rarities --- say a Studebaker. International is somewhere in the dull middle, associated more with plowed fields than the open road." I found parts of the book so laughable that tears came to my eyes. Truth be told - as a boy I lived just blocks from an IHC showroom. There stationed in 12-foot wide showroom windows were trucks in all their glory. No mere auto could compare. Perry peeks into company history and smears it across the pages like jelly on bread making it so tasty - you virtually eat it up. The sidebars about Wisconsin and the love for his sister and brother-in-law never seem to end and you don't want them to. When you read: "My truck is an ugly truck. I bought it for \$150 bucks from a guy named Ron." You can feel reality. Ron had swabbed it with a coat of pink primer and many chapters later you find that it was not primer it was two cans of different paints mixed together to have enough to do the job. Anyhow - I'll go off and try to read his other books "Population 485" and "Off the Main Street". If, you only have the time and money for one book this year. Try - TRUCK by Michael Perry

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