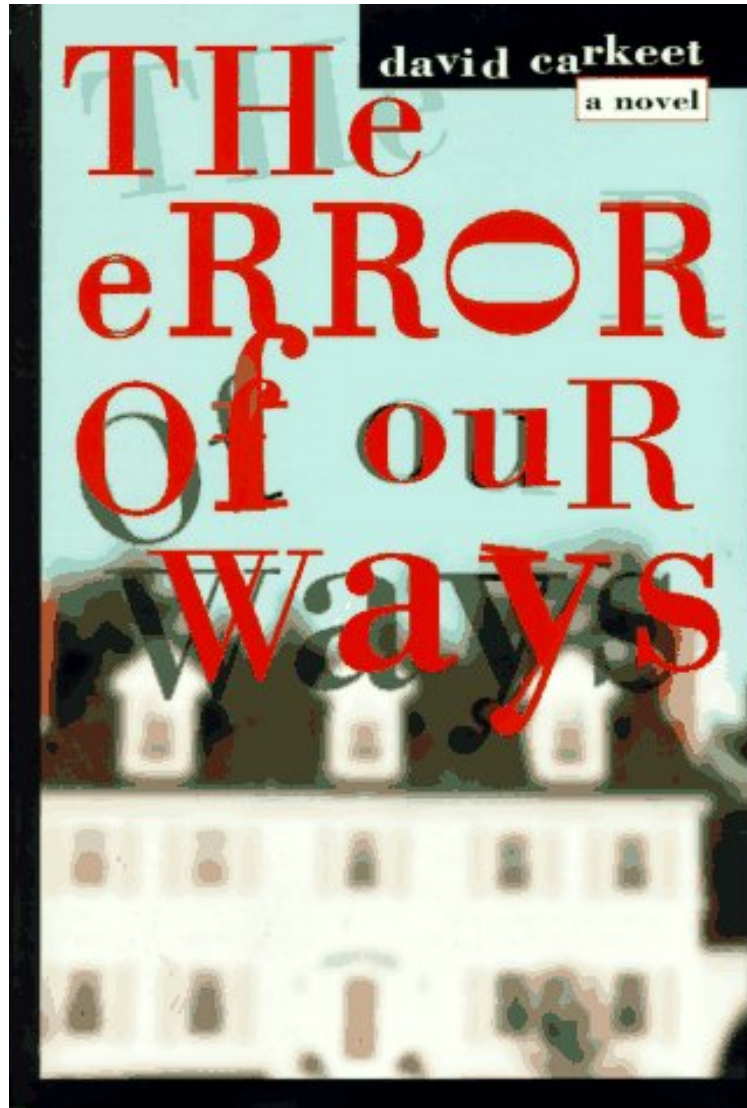


(Library ebook) The Error of Our Ways

## The Error of Our Ways

David Carkeet

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#6057464 in Books 1997-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 1.05 x 5.83 x 8.53l, #File Name: 0805045023320 pages | File size: 77.Mb

**David Carkeet : The Error of Our Ways** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Error of Our Ways:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three StarsBy OwenGreat story, but the edition is really frustrating as there are a lot of grammar mistakes throughout.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Another good read by David Carkeet featuring the linguist Jeremy CookBy CMNot quite as fun a read as The Full Catastrophe or Double Negative, still, the Error of our Ways entertains.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Full of Fun ErrorsBy Jeffrey Penn MayI read David Carkeets The Error Of Our Ways when it was first published in 1997 and

have vivid memories of staying up well past midnight to finish it. I did not expect the same thing to happen in 2016. But it did. Despite references to outdated technology and perhaps some of the social mores of the decade in which it was written, this novel holds up well over time. There is something off about this book, but in a good way. All the quirks and odd occurrences are completely believable. Carkeet interweaves ordinary events into an intricate plot, those events gaining increasingly greater and somewhat ominous significance as the novel progresses. I know of few writers who can describe the process of seeking college financial aid and weave it into the plot so that reading it becomes almost suspenseful. Not all errors are ordinary of course and the big mistakes can often balloon into ever bigger ones, but when we make them it's often hard to determine their significance. Maybe our lives are like that, one long mountain climb where a small seemingly irrelevant mistake, neglecting to change a frayed boot lace, can have dire consequences on icy slopes. *The Error Of Our Ways*, like Carkeet's previous novels *Double Negative* and *The Full Catastrophe* feature the linguist Jeremy Cook. In those novels the humor jumps off almost every page, especially *The Full Catastrophe*. While *The Error Of Our Ways* is funny, its themes suggest more threatening forces, making it difficult to stop reading. And Carkeet knows his setting, exploiting it beautifully, the odd array of small cities bunched around the city of St. Louis. In a way, *The Error Of Our Ways* depicts a life transition, from Jeremy Cook, the cynical linguist who has no children and is only technically married, to Ben Hudnut, who has all the trappings of a family, his newly career minded wife, four daughters, his nut business, and an expensive house in an expensive neighborhood. Cook, the linguist who has nothing but his passion for language development will never have the family life of Ben Hudnut. While the main characters Hudnut and Cook, are inventive, intricate, complex, their wives and supporting cast are only a little less so, and are strong characters nonetheless. However, this is ultimately a book about men, the man standing alone amid the debris of his inevitable mistakes, battling the forces that would harm him and what's important to him. In Ben Hudnut's case, his family and his nut business. For Jeremy Cook, his character, his political views, his lack of involvement in community, his solitude. In this regard, the novel makes excellent use of literary allusions, most notably *Our Town*. Perhaps, ironically, *The Error Of Our Ways* seems more suited to male readers who might be less likely to read it. *The Error Of Our Ways* should resonate for a long time. Carkeet displays a gift for turning the mundane into the extraordinary, interweaving normal parental concerns and lingering sense of self into a compelling story. *The Error Of Our Ways* deserves to be read. Give it a try.

Enjoying his professional successes and his contented family, Ben Hudnut experiences a series of Job-like challenges and befriends fellow sufferer and determined linguist Jeremy Cook. 10,000 first printing.

.com How do you put language at the center of a novel? Make the protagonist a linguist, and give everyone telling names and portentous things to say. That is what David Carkeet--himself a linguist by training--does in his novels. Jeremy Cook, the successful academic linguist and hero of Carkeet's earlier *Double Negative* and *The Full Catastrophe*, returns in *The Error of Our Ways*. Now married and unemployed, the previously cocksure Cook follows his ambitious wife, a linguist as well--though one with a teaching position--to a tiny college in St. Louis. There Cook meets Ben Hudnut, the nut magnate of St. Louis, whose own manhood is jeopardized by failure in the nut business. The novel is a clever tale of middle-aged male insecurity and the damning consequences of fate. The joy of it all resides in Carkeet's prose and the witty wordings he designs. From Publishers Weekly Domestic comedy is Carkeet's forte, and his fifth novel is a shrewd, wickedly funny delight, full of hilarious takes on rocky marriages, sexual boredom, raising kids, communication gaps and nutty doings, as in almonds and cashews. Ben Hudnut, 44-year old owner of Crunch, a gourmet nut emporium in St. Louis, finds his life unraveling. A clandestine extramarital affair a decade ago now threatens to derail his marriage. His distrustful, suicidal 18-year-old daughter, Andrea (who knows about his affair), may be sleeping with her English teacher. Ben is so preoccupied with nuts, he can't connect emotionally with his four daughters, and he's totally caught off-guard when Roberta, his quiet, loyal secretary, embezzles a quarter of a million dollars, wiping him out. Into this morass steps befuddled wordsmith Jeremy Cook (who cleared a forest of fuzzy language in *Double Negative* and *The Full Catastrophe*). Jeremy, a born loner, an unemployed, embattled linguist in a world indifferent to words and their meanings, is enlisted to study the speech patterns of the Hudnuts' foul-mouthed toddler Molly, but he has his own domestic troubles; his earnest wife, Paula Nouvelles, a linguist at mediocre Buford University, is plotting to annul their marriage, a secret Jeremy accidentally discovers from a voicemail message. As Jeremy, an anthropologist of words and gestures, decodes the self-projecting (and self-protective) linguistic quirks of politicians, conservatives, restaurant patrons, tennis players and the Hudnuts, Carkeet navigates the slippery terrain between our public personas and inner selves. And as Jeremy makes blundering attempts to help Ben straighten out his life, Carkeet, a delectable observer of human foibles and pretense, delivers a wise meditation on how we unwittingly affect the course of other people's existences.. This sparkling novel transcends the genre of academic satire and should win Carkeet a broad following. Author readings. Rights: Karpfinger Agency. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Ben Hudnut is the nut king of St. Louis. He owns a successful nut business. He is a happily married father of four. He has a great house, good schools for the children, a nice car. Dealing with teenage and preteenage daughters is somewhat stressful, but overall, life is good.

Then, for no apparent reason, the fabric of his life begins to unravel. Repercussions from an extramarital affair, 11 years dead, are heard. Ben's secretary of 18 years hits the road, having embezzled \$250,000 from his business. Family finances are in disarray, a result of Ben's trying to manipulate "the system" for college financial aid, just to see if it could be done. Jeremy Cook, an unemployed linguist who is studying the speech patterns of Ben's youngest daughter, tries to offer monetary help by faking his own death. The conclusion of this comedy of errors is disappointing, but the book as a whole is enjoyable and is a linguistic delight. From the author of *Double Negative* (Pocket, 1991). Recommended. ?Joanna M. Burkhardt, Univ. of Rhode Island Coll. of Continuing Education Lib., Providence Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.