



# Breakfast with Buddha: A Novel

By Roland Merullo

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## Breakfast with Buddha: A Novel By Roland Merullo

When his sister tricks him into taking her guru on a trip to their childhood home, Otto Ringling, a confirmed skeptic, is not amused. Six days on the road with an enigmatic holy man who answers every question with a riddle is not what he'd planned. But in an effort to westernize his passenger--and amuse himself--he decides to show the monk some "American fun" along the way. From a chocolate factory in Hershey to a bowling alley in South Bend, from a Cubs game at Wrigley field to his family farm near Bismarck, Otto is given the remarkable opportunity to see his world--and more important, his life--through someone else's eyes. Gradually, skepticism yields to amazement as he realizes that his companion might just be the real thing.

In Roland Merullo's masterful hands, Otto tells his story with all the wonder, bemusement, and wry humor of a man who unwittingly finds what he's missing in the most unexpected place.

A sequel, entitled *Lunch with Buddha*, is now available. In a starred review, Kirkus magazine called this novel which continues the journey of Otto and Rinpoche, "a beautifully written and compelling story about a man's search for meaning that earnestly and accessibly tackles some well-trodden but universal questions" and a "quiet meditation on life, death, darkness and spirituality, sprinkled with humor, tenderness and stunning landscapes."

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## **Breakfast with Buddha: A Novel By Roland Merullo Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Merullo, author of the Revere Beach series and *Golfing with God*, delivers a comic but winningly spiritual road-trip novel. Otto Ringling is a food-book editor and a happily married father of two living in a tony New York suburb. After Otto's North Dakota parents are killed in a car crash, he plans to drive his ebulliently New Age sister, Cecilia, back home to sell the family farm. But when Otto arrives to pick up Cecilia in Paterson, N.J. (where she does tarot readings and past-life regressions), she declares her intention to give her half of the farm to her guru, Volvo Rinpoche, who will set up a retreat there. Cecilia asks Otto to take Rinpoche to North Dakota instead; after a fit of skeptical rage in which he rails internally against his sister's gullibility, he accepts, and the novel is off and running. Merullo takes the reader through the small towns and byways of Midwestern America, which look unexpectedly alluring through Rinpoche's eyes. Well-fed Western secularist Otto is only half-aware that his life might need fixing, and his slow discovery of Rinpoche's nature, and his own, make for a satisfying read. A set piece of Otto's chaotic first meditation session is notably hilarious, and the whole book is breezy and affecting. (Oct.)

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

With *Breakfast with Buddha*, Roland Merullo, the author of seven books, including the critically acclaimed Revere Beach Trilogy and *A Little Love Story* (HHHH Selection Jan/Feb 2006), takes on one of the oldest and most popular literary genres—the road novel. Authors from Chaucer to Twain to Kerouac have already written journey-focused masterpieces, and some critics pointed out that Merullo isn't necessarily doing anything new in this novel. However, as the *Washington Post* declares, "Yes, it's all formulaic, but it's such a sweet formula!" Despite the presence of a few mechanical scenes and characters, reviewers appreciated Merullo's engaging writing style and his light and joyous treatment of what could have been very heavy-handed spiritual material.

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From [Booklist](#)

Veteran novelist Merullo continues the spiritual odyssey he began in *Golfing with God* (2005). Otto Ringling, a successful New York editor and contented family man, has been in a slump ever since his parents were killed in an automobile accident. To settle the estate, he and his loopy sister, Cecilia, must drive to the family homestead in North Dakota. Then Cecilia tells him she's giving her half of the farm to her guru, the maroon-robed Volya Rinpoche, and that she wants Otto to drive him there. A grumbling Otto reluctantly agrees, mapping out a route that will take them along some of the Midwest's most charming backroads, and treating the rotund monk to a taste of American fun, including a tour of the Hershey chocolate factory and a round of miniature golf. Volya proves to be such a jovial and serene companion that Otto soon regains not only his peace of mind but also his *joie de vivre*. The skillful Merullo, using the lightest of touches, slowly turns this low-key comedy into a moving story of spiritual awakening. Wilkinson, Joanne

### Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Janet Speer:**

The book Breakfast with Buddha: A Novel make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You can use to make

your capable more increase. Book can for being your best friend when you getting tension or having big problem with the subject. If you can make examining a book Breakfast with Buddha: A Novel for being your habit, you can get far more advantages, like add your current capable, increase your knowledge about a number of or all subjects. You could know everything if you like available and read a e-book Breakfast with Buddha: A Novel. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science book or encyclopedia or other folks. So , how do you think about this guide?

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### **Phyllis Baudoin:**

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### **Sang Weems:**

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