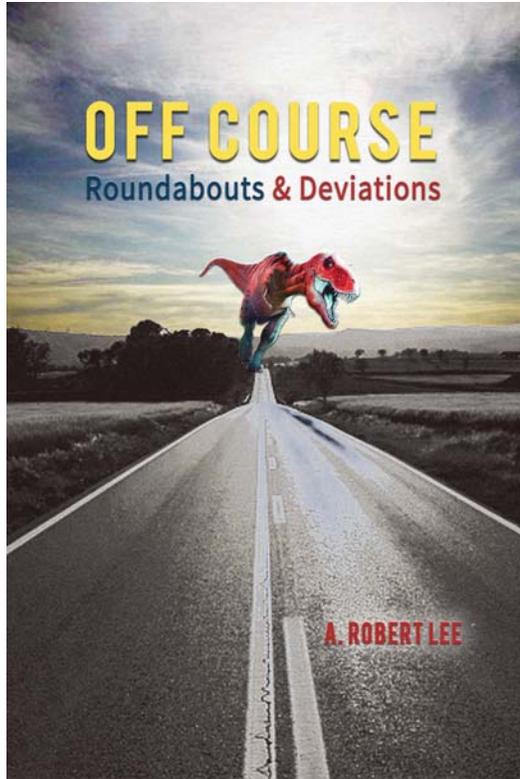


## OFF COURSE Roundabouts and Deviations



by A. Robert Lee

May 2016  
Paperback | 138 pp | \$14.99  
ISBN-13: 978-1-940939-40-7  
eBook | \$6.99  
ISBN-13: 978-1-940939-41-4

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OFF COURSE: ROUNDABOUTS & DEVIATIONS is A. Robert Lee's latest collection that interleaves poetry and prose. Beneath the carefully crafted and accessible surface of Lee's work lies a profound, complex voice that deliberately disrupts traditional literary boundaries and distinctions. Different takes on the odd, oftentimes the antic, at work in the daily round. Seamed in wit, dark but congenial humor, Lee's work is aimed to amuse yet at the same time, stir recognitions. Fake correspondence might just be real. Foodways edge towards the gothic. Each composition comes over as slant, diagonal, oblique. Set phrases turn askew. Geographies un-map themselves, whether ostensibly Europe, England Japan, or America. Of course, it's all OFF COURSE. Enchanting tales of travel and transformation, comedy and capitalism, and unforgettable stories that teach us about our present as well as our past, OFF COURSE uses irony to tickle the mind. It reminds us that contradictions in life are inescapable, and how precarious and unpredictable life really is. Acerbic, volatile and incisive. Life episodes take on the patina of waking slumber, not to say japery and the absurd. Read OFF COURSE without discretion, and take out some personal insurance before reading.

"What great fun to read A. Robert Lee's new book! Since his *Tokyo Commute* (2001), I've followed with joy the off-course adventures and meanderings in the books of this world-traveler and literary critic-author.

—Shoko Miura, Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology

Readers shouldn't worry. In this new collection A. Robert Lee is very much on course. Wonderful floating worlds in a variety of voices. Eyes on and yet at same time well beyond the road.

—Andrew Hook, The University of Glasgow

Starting with the striking cover illustration, A. Robert Lee's OFF COURSE: ROUNDABOUTS AND DIVERSIONS offers good cause for the reader to leave the straight and narrow for the surprising linguistic adventures of his world.

—Rex Burns, Author of THE ALVAREZ JOURNAL  
AND OTHER MYSTERIES

Often witty, usually wry, and always wise, A. Robert Lee's OFF COURSE poems and vignettes of word magic prove that a wormhole view is in fact the widest lens.

—Cathy Covell Waegner, University of Siegen, Germany

### About the Poet

A. ROBERT LEE was a professor in the English department at Nihon University from 1997-2011. British-born, he previously taught at the University of Kent, UK. A scholar and a poet, his creative work includes *Japan Textures: Sight and Word*, with Mark Gresham (2007), *Tokyo Commute: Japanese Customs and Way of Life Viewed from the Odakyu Line* (2011), and the verse collections *Ars Geographica: Maps and Compasses* (2012), *Portrait and Landscape: Further Geographies* (2013), and *Imaginarium: Sightings, Galleries, Sightlines* (2013). Currently he lives in Murcia, Spain.

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