



## How We Get Along

By J. David Velleman

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**How We Get Along** By J. David Velleman

In *How We Get Along*, philosopher David Velleman compares our social interactions to the interactions among improvisational actors on stage. He argues that we play ourselves—not artificially but authentically, by doing what would make sense coming from us as we really are. And like improvisational actors, we deal with one another in dual capacities: both as characters within the social drama and as players contributing to the shared performance. In this conception of social intercourse, Velleman finds rational grounds for morality, though not a rational guarantee. He maps a middle course between skepticism and rationalism, arguing that practical reasoning is "pro-moral" without requiring moral action. The result is what he calls a "Kinda Kantian metaethics". Written in an accessible and engaging style, *How We Get Along* is the summation of Velleman's thinking to date, incorporating and unifying previous work on agency, the self, the emotions, narrative, and Kantian moral theory.

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## How We Get Along By J. David Velleman Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #730668 in Books
- Published on: 2009-04
- Released on: 2009-06-25
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.98" h x .51" w x 5.98" l, .70 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 232 pages

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#### Review

"...offers a conception of social intercourse as a dynamic equilibrium that is reminiscent of Alexander Nehamas's Nietzsche, Life as Literature (CH, Feb'86) and Lewis White Beck's The Actor and the Spectator (CH, Feb'76)... This book is written in an accessible, intelligent style and is wise where others are clever... Highly recommended..."

**R Werner, Hamilton College, Choice**

#### About the Author

J. David Velleman is Professor of Philosophy at New York University. He is the author of Practical Reflection, The Possibility of Practical Reason, and, most recently, Self to Self. He is also a founding editor of the online journal Philosophers' Imprint.

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