

lirr conductor exam

lirr conductor exam: Embarking on a career as a Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) conductor is a rewarding path, offering stability, a chance to serve the community, and competitive benefits. However, the journey begins with a significant hurdle: passing the LIRR conductor exam. This comprehensive article will guide aspiring conductors through every crucial aspect of the LIRR conductor exam, from understanding its purpose and format to mastering essential study strategies and navigating the application process. We will delve into the typical content covered, the types of questions you can expect, and provide practical tips to boost your chances of success. Whether you're just starting your research or are deep into your preparation, this guide aims to equip you with the knowledge and confidence needed to conquer the LIRR conductor exam and launch your LIRR career.

Understanding the LIRR Conductor Exam

The LIRR conductor exam serves as the primary gateway for individuals seeking to become a qualified conductor for the Long Island Rail Road. This rigorous assessment is designed to evaluate a candidate's aptitude, knowledge, and suitability for the demanding responsibilities of a conductor. The examination process ensures that only individuals possessing the necessary skills and understanding are entrusted with the safety and efficiency of LIRR operations. Success on this exam is not merely about memorization; it's about demonstrating a fundamental grasp of the role and its inherent requirements.

Purpose and Importance of the LIRR Conductor Exam

The paramount purpose of the LIRR conductor exam is to guarantee public safety and ensure the smooth operation of the LIRR. Conductors play a vital role in managing passenger flow, enforcing safety regulations, and communicating effectively during train journeys. Therefore, the exam meticulously assesses a candidate's cognitive abilities, problem-solving skills, and understanding of critical operational procedures. Passing this exam signifies that an individual has met the LIRR's stringent standards for competence and reliability, making them a valuable asset to the transportation network.

Exam Format and Structure

While the exact format of the LIRR conductor exam can evolve, it typically comprises multiple-choice questions designed to test various competencies. Candidates can expect sections covering areas such as mechanical aptitude, spatial reasoning, logical reasoning, and behavioral traits. The exam is often administered under timed conditions, requiring candidates to manage their time effectively. Understanding this structure is the first step in developing an effective study plan. Familiarity with the question types, such as those involving diagrams, scenarios, or abstract relationships, can significantly reduce test-day anxiety.

Key Areas of Focus for the LIRR Conductor Exam

To excel on the LIRR conductor exam, candidates must dedicate their study efforts to specific knowledge domains. The exam is comprehensive, covering a broad spectrum of skills and understanding essential for the role. Effective preparation involves understanding the nuances of each section and practicing relevant question types.

Mechanical Aptitude and Reasoning

A significant portion of the LIRR conductor exam often focuses on mechanical aptitude and reasoning. This section evaluates a candidate's understanding of basic mechanical principles, how various components work together, and their ability to interpret diagrams related to machinery and equipment. Questions might involve identifying tools, understanding force and motion, or recognizing the function of different parts in a mechanical system. Strong performance here indicates an ability to grasp technical concepts, which is crucial for understanding train operations and maintenance.

Spatial Reasoning and Visualization

Spatial reasoning is another critical area assessed by the LIRR conductor exam. This involves the ability to mentally manipulate objects, understand shapes and patterns, and visualize how things fit together in three-dimensional space. Candidates may be presented with questions that require them to rotate objects, identify missing parts in a pattern, or understand how different shapes can form a larger structure. Developing this skill is important for tasks such as understanding track layouts, carriage arrangements, and emergency escape routes.

Logical Reasoning and Problem-Solving

The LIRR conductor exam places a strong emphasis on logical reasoning and problem-solving abilities. This section tests a candidate's capacity to analyze information, identify patterns, draw conclusions, and make sound judgments under pressure. Questions might involve deductive reasoning, inductive reasoning, or scenario-based problems that require critical thinking to find the best solution. The ability to think logically and solve problems efficiently is fundamental to a conductor's daily responsibilities, from managing unexpected situations to ensuring passenger safety.

Situational Judgment and Behavioral Traits

Beyond technical skills, the LIRR conductor exam also assesses situational judgment and behavioral traits. This part of the exam presents candidates with realistic workplace scenarios and asks them to choose the most appropriate course of action. These questions gauge a candidate's understanding of professional conduct, customer service, safety protocols, and their ability to remain calm and effective in challenging situations. Demonstrating sound judgment and a commitment to safety and service is vital for any LIRR conductor.

Strategies for LIRR Conductor Exam Preparation

Effective preparation is the cornerstone of success for the LIRR conductor exam. A structured and targeted approach can significantly enhance a candidate's performance. Focusing on understanding the exam's demands and utilizing appropriate study methods will build confidence and knowledge.

Utilizing Official Study Guides and Resources

The most valuable resources for LIRR conductor exam preparation are often provided or recommended by the LIRR itself. These official study guides and practice materials are specifically designed to mirror the content and format of the actual exam. Familiarizing yourself with these resources allows you to understand the types of questions, the difficulty level, and the key areas to focus on. Consistent review of these materials is highly recommended for all candidates aiming to pass.

Practicing with Sample Questions and Mock Tests

To solidify understanding and build test-taking stamina, practicing with sample questions and mock tests is indispensable. These simulated exams allow candidates to gauge their progress, identify areas of weakness, and become comfortable with the timed nature of the assessment. Regularly working through practice questions helps reinforce learned concepts and improves response speed. Analyzing performance on mock tests provides valuable feedback for refining study strategies.

Developing Effective Time Management Skills

The LIRR conductor exam is a timed assessment, making effective time management crucial for success. Candidates must learn to allocate sufficient time to each section and question without dwelling too long on any single item. During practice tests, simulate exam conditions by setting a timer. This helps in developing a rhythm and learning to move on from difficult questions if necessary, ensuring that all sections are attempted. Prioritizing questions and making educated guesses when unsure are also valuable time management techniques.

Understanding LIRR Operations and Safety Protocols

A strong understanding of LIRR operations and safety protocols is not only beneficial for the exam but also essential for the job itself. Familiarize yourself with basic railway terminology, signaling systems, and emergency procedures. While the exam might not delve into extreme technicalities, a general awareness of how the railroad functions and the paramount importance of safety will inform your answers, especially in situational judgment questions. Researching LIRR's mission and values can also provide context.

The LIRR Conductor Application Process

Successfully navigating the LIRR conductor exam is a critical step, but it is part of a larger

application process. Understanding the subsequent stages and requirements is equally important for aspiring conductors.

Submitting Your Application and Resume

The initial step in pursuing a career as an LIRR conductor involves submitting a formal application. This typically requires providing detailed personal information, employment history, and educational qualifications. Crafting a well-written resume that highlights relevant experience, such as customer service, handling responsibilities, or any transportation-related roles, can strengthen your application. Pay close attention to the specific requirements outlined in the job posting and ensure all information is accurate and complete.

Pre-Employment Screening and Background Checks

Following the submission of your application and successful completion of the LIRR conductor exam, candidates will undergo pre-employment screening. This often includes background checks, which verify your employment history, criminal record, and may involve checks for substance abuse. LIRR, like any major transportation authority, places a high premium on the trustworthiness and reliability of its employees, especially those in safety-sensitive positions. Honesty and transparency throughout this process are paramount.

Medical and Physical Fitness Requirements

As a conductor, maintaining good health and physical fitness is essential for performing the duties of the role. Candidates will need to pass a medical examination to ensure they meet the LIRR's health standards. This may include vision and hearing tests, as well as an assessment of overall physical capability. The ability to stand for extended periods, lift moderate weights, and respond effectively in various physical scenarios is often part of these requirements. Staying healthy and prepared for these assessments is a crucial part of the overall process.

Interviews and Final Selection

The final stages of the LIRR conductor application process typically involve one or more interviews. These interviews are an opportunity for LIRR to assess your communication skills, problem-solving abilities in real-time, and your overall fit with the company culture. Be prepared to discuss your qualifications, your motivation for becoming a conductor, and how you would handle various work-related situations. A professional demeanor, clear articulation of your thoughts, and enthusiasm for the role can leave a lasting positive impression.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the typical passing score required for the LIRR Conductor exam?

While the exact passing score can fluctuate based on the specific exam administration, generally, a score in the high 70s or low 80s (out of 100) is considered a competitive passing mark for the LIRR Conductor exam. It's advisable to aim for the highest score possible to increase your chances of selection.

What are the essential skills tested on the LIRR Conductor exam?

The LIRR Conductor exam typically assesses skills in areas such as reading comprehension, logical reasoning, basic arithmetic, attention to detail, and the ability to follow instructions. You'll likely encounter multiple-choice questions designed to evaluate these competencies.

Where can I find official study materials or practice tests for the LIRR Conductor exam?

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) websites are the primary sources for official information regarding their exams. Look for the careers or employment sections, where they often post exam announcements, study guides, and sometimes practice questions or links to resources.

How can I prepare effectively for the LIRR Conductor exam?

Effective preparation involves thoroughly reviewing the exam announcement for content areas, practicing logical reasoning and reading comprehension exercises, and familiarizing yourself with basic math concepts. Time management during the test is also crucial, so practice answering questions under timed conditions.

What is the general application process for the LIRR Conductor position?

The application process usually begins with monitoring the MTA/LIRR careers portal for the announcement of the Conductor exam. Once announced, you'll need to submit an online application and pay any required fees. Passing the exam is a prerequisite for further consideration, which may include background checks and interviews.

Are there any specific physical or medical requirements for LIRR Conductors?

Yes, LIRR Conductors must meet certain physical and medical standards to ensure they can perform the duties of the job safely and effectively. This often includes vision and hearing tests, and a general medical evaluation to ensure the candidate is fit for duty.

What is the expected timeline after passing the LIRR Conductor exam to get hired?

The timeline can vary significantly based on the number of candidates who pass the exam, the hiring needs of the LIRR, and the completion of background checks and other pre-employment steps. It can range from a few months to over a year. Being patient and responsive to LIRR communications is key.

What kind of questions can I expect in the LIRR Conductor exam's logical reasoning section?

The logical reasoning section often includes questions involving patterns, sequences, analogies, and syllogisms. You might be asked to identify the next item in a series, determine relationships between concepts, or evaluate the validity of arguments.

Is there a penalty for incorrect answers on the LIRR Conductor exam?

Historically, many standardized exams, including those for public service positions like the LIRR Conductor, do not have a penalty for incorrect answers. This means it's generally advisable to answer every question, even if you have to guess. Always check the specific exam instructions for confirmation.

Additional Resources

Here are 9 book titles related to the LIRR Conductor Exam, each with a short description:

1. LIRR Conductor Exam Secrets: The Complete Study Guide

This comprehensive guide is designed to cover all the essential topics you'll encounter on the LIRR Conductor Exam. It delves into rules, regulations, safety procedures, and operational knowledge specific to the Long Island Rail Road. Expect detailed explanations of responsibilities, emergency protocols, and the critical decision-making skills required for this vital role.

2. Mastering LIRR Operating Rules: A Practical Approach

Focusing on the core operating rules of the Long Island Rail Road, this book breaks down complex procedures into easy-to-understand concepts. It emphasizes practical application and real-world scenarios that conductors face daily. By mastering these rules, you'll build a strong foundation for success on the exam and in your career.

3. Your Path to LIRR Conductor Certification: Study Aids and Practice Tests

This resource offers a direct pathway to LIRR Conductor certification with a focus on targeted study aids and realistic practice tests. It aims to simulate the actual exam experience, allowing you to assess your knowledge and identify areas for improvement. The book provides valuable insights into the types of questions you can expect and strategies for tackling them effectively.

4. LIRR Conductor Exam Prep: Navigation, Signals, and Train Control

This specialized guide zeroes in on the technical aspects of the LIRR Conductor Exam, particularly navigation, signal comprehension, and train control systems. It provides in-depth explanations of

track diagrams, signal indications, and the mechanics of train operation. Understanding these elements is crucial for safe and efficient train movement.

5. *The LIRR Conductor's Handbook: Essential Knowledge for Exam Success*

Consider this your go-to handbook for all the essential knowledge required to pass the LIRR Conductor Exam. It covers a broad range of topics from passenger safety and communication to emergency response and railroad etiquette. The book is structured to provide a solid overview of the conductor's multifaceted role.

6. *LIRR Conductor Exam: Understanding Passenger Service and Safety Protocols*

This book specifically addresses the critical aspects of passenger service and safety protocols as they pertain to the LIRR Conductor Exam. It highlights the importance of passenger interaction, boarding and alighting procedures, and handling various passenger situations. A strong understanding of these elements is paramount for a conductor's duties.

7. *LIRR Conductor Exam: A Guide to Railway Operations and Procedures*

This comprehensive guide delves into the broader aspects of railway operations and procedures relevant to the LIRR Conductor Exam. It explores the organizational structure of the railroad, communication systems, and the chain of command. Familiarizing yourself with these operational nuances will be highly beneficial.

8. *Conquering the LIRR Conductor Exam: Strategies and Study Tips*

This book offers practical strategies and effective study tips to help you conquer the LIRR Conductor Exam. It focuses on time management during the exam, effective note-taking, and memory retention techniques. The goal is to equip you with the mental tools needed to perform your best under pressure.

9. *LIRR Conductor Exam Review: Focus on Emergency Preparedness and Response*

This review guide puts a strong emphasis on emergency preparedness and response, a key component of the LIRR Conductor Exam. It covers various emergency scenarios, the procedures for handling them, and the communication protocols involved. Mastering these aspects demonstrates your readiness to ensure the safety of passengers and crew.

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Conquer the LIRR Conductor Exam: Your Comprehensive Guide to Success

This ebook provides a detailed exploration of the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) Conductor exam, outlining its importance in securing a rewarding career in passenger rail, covering essential preparation strategies, and offering invaluable insights for prospective candidates. It's designed to help aspiring conductors navigate the application process, master the exam content, and significantly improve their chances of success.

Ebook Title: Mastering the LIRR Conductor Exam: A Complete Preparation Guide

Outline:

Introduction: Understanding the LIRR and the Conductor Role

Chapter 1: The Application Process - Navigating the System: Application requirements, deadlines, and the initial screening process.

Chapter 2: Exam Content Breakdown: Rules, Regulations, and Procedures: A detailed overview of the exam's topics, including safety regulations, operating rules, and passenger handling protocols.

Chapter 3: Mastering the Written Exam: Strategies and Practice: Techniques for effective test-taking, time management, and utilizing practice resources.

Chapter 4: The Oral Interview: Presentation, Confidence, and Communication: Preparing for the interview, including common questions, appropriate attire, and effective communication strategies.

Chapter 5: Physical and Medical Requirements: Maintaining Fitness and Health: Understanding the physical demands of the job and meeting the necessary health standards.

Chapter 6: Background Check and Security Clearance: Navigating the background investigation process and ensuring a smooth clearance.

Chapter 7: Post-Exam Success: Onboarding and Training: What to expect after passing the exam, including initial training programs and continued professional development.

Conclusion: Recap of key strategies and resources for continued success.

Introduction: Understanding the LIRR and the Conductor Role

This section will introduce the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR), its significance in the regional transportation network, and provide a comprehensive overview of the Conductor role. It will detail the responsibilities, daily tasks, and the crucial role conductors play in ensuring safe and efficient passenger transit. This sets the stage for the rest of the guide, highlighting the importance of thorough preparation.

Chapter 1: The Application Process - Navigating the System

This chapter offers step-by-step guidance on completing the LIRR Conductor application. It covers eligibility requirements, including age, education, and experience (if any). We'll examine the application form in detail, providing tips for accurately completing each section and avoiding common errors. Deadlines, required documentation, and the initial screening process are also discussed.

Chapter 2: Exam Content Breakdown: Rules, Regulations, and Procedures

This crucial chapter dissects the content of the LIRR Conductor written exam. It will cover key areas such as:

Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Regulations: Detailed explanation of relevant FRA rules concerning safety, operations, and communication.

LIRR Operating Rules: A thorough understanding of LIRR-specific operating procedures, signal systems, and track layouts is critical.

Passenger Handling and Customer Service: Effective communication, conflict resolution, and handling emergencies involving passengers.

Emergency Procedures: Responding to various scenarios, including medical emergencies, derailments, and security threats.

Train Handling and Operations: Understanding train dynamics, coupling and uncoupling procedures, and brake systems.

Chapter 3: Mastering the Written Exam: Strategies and Practice

This chapter provides practical strategies for success on the written exam. We'll delve into effective test-taking techniques, including time management, eliminating incorrect answers, and focusing on key concepts. It includes guidance on utilizing available practice materials, identifying strengths and weaknesses, and creating a personalized study plan. We'll also discuss different learning styles and how to adapt study strategies accordingly.

Chapter 4: The Oral Interview: Presentation, Confidence, and Communication

The oral interview is a significant component of the selection process. This chapter provides invaluable preparation techniques, covering aspects such as:

Common Interview Questions: Examples of behavioral questions, situational questions, and technical questions about railway operations.

Structuring your Answers: Techniques for providing clear, concise, and well-structured responses.

Projecting Confidence and Professionalism: Tips for presenting oneself confidently and professionally, including appropriate attire and body language.

Handling Difficult Questions: Strategies for responding to challenging or unexpected questions.

Chapter 5: Physical and Medical Requirements: Maintaining Fitness and Health

This chapter discusses the physical demands of the LIRR Conductor position, detailing the necessary physical fitness levels and health standards. It outlines the medical examination process, including what to expect and how to prepare. We'll provide resources and tips for maintaining physical fitness to successfully meet these requirements.

Chapter 6: Background Check and Security Clearance

The background check and security clearance process is crucial for securing employment with the LIRR. This chapter explains what to expect during the background check, including the types of information that will be verified. We will provide guidance on accurately disclosing information and ensuring a smooth and efficient clearance process.

Chapter 7: Post-Exam Success: Onboarding and Training

Once you've passed the exam, this chapter provides insight into the next steps: onboarding procedures, initial training, and ongoing professional development opportunities. This section prepares candidates for what to expect and helps them navigate the transition into their new role.

Conclusion: Recap of key strategies and resources for continued success

This concluding section recaps the key strategies and resources presented throughout the ebook, emphasizing the importance of continuous learning and professional development within the rail industry. It will encourage readers to remain proactive in their pursuit of excellence within their new career.

FAQs:

1. What is the passing score for the LIRR Conductor exam? The exact passing score isn't publicly released but requires a strong understanding of all materials covered.
2. How long is the LIRR Conductor exam? The length varies; expect a substantial time commitment for both written and oral components.
3. What types of questions are on the written exam? Multiple-choice, true/false, and potentially short-answer questions covering operating rules, safety regulations, and customer service.
4. How can I prepare for the oral interview? Practice common interview questions with friends, family, or a career counselor. Focus on clear communication and professionalism.
5. What are the physical requirements for the LIRR Conductor position? The LIRR website outlines specific physical requirements including vision, hearing, and lifting capabilities.
6. How long does the background check process take? The timeframe varies but can take several weeks or months.
7. What type of training is provided after passing the exam? Comprehensive on-the-job training and classroom instruction covering LIRR-specific procedures and safety protocols.
8. Are there opportunities for career advancement within the LIRR? Yes, opportunities exist for promotion to supervisory roles or specialized positions within the rail system.
9. Where can I find practice materials for the LIRR Conductor exam? Review official LIRR publications, railroad handbooks, and other relevant study materials.

Related Articles:

1. LIRR Conductor Salary and Benefits: A detailed overview of compensation and benefits for LIRR conductors.
2. A Day in the Life of an LIRR Conductor: A realistic portrayal of the daily duties and responsibilities of a conductor.

3. Top 5 Tips for Passing the LIRR Conductor Exam: Concise strategies for exam success.
4. Understanding LIRR Operating Rules and Regulations: In-depth explanation of key rules and regulations.
5. Mastering Railroad Signal Systems for LIRR Conductors: Specific focus on signal knowledge needed for the exam.
6. Effective Communication Skills for LIRR Conductors: Focus on customer service and communication techniques.
7. LIRR Conductor Application Process: A Step-by-Step Guide: A more detailed breakdown of the application steps.
8. Preparing for the LIRR Conductor Oral Interview: Detailed tips and practice questions for the interview.
9. LIRR Conductor Career Path and Advancement Opportunities: Exploration of career progression options within the LIRR.

lirr conductor exam: *Assistant Train Dispatcher* National Learning Corporation, 2015 The Assistant Train Dispatcher Passbook(R) prepares you for your test by allowing you to take practice exams in the subjects you need to study.

lirr conductor exam: **Automatic Train Control in Rail Rapid Transit** United States. Congress. Office of Technology Assessment, 1976

lirr conductor exam: Fare Policies, Structures and Technologies Daniel Fleishman, Transit Cooperative Research Program, 2003 TCRP Report 94: Fare Policies, Structures and Technologies: Update identifies, describes, and evaluates key fare structures, policies, and technologies that are being considered by transit agencies, with a focus on their impact on customers, operations management, and effective and equitable fare integration. The report includes data on fare structures, policy-making procedures, and ongoing efforts to implement fare technology. This report provides guidance on making decisions related to fare policies, structures, and technologies. It includes practical information that can be readily used by transit professionals and policy makers in fare-related planning and decision making. This report updates information presented in TCRP Reports 10 and 32 and presents the latest developments and research results related to fare policy and technology issues.

lirr conductor exam: Passenger Train Emergency Preparedness (US Federal Railroad Administration Regulation) (Fra) (2018 Edition) The Law The Law Library, 2018-09-21 Passenger Train Emergency Preparedness (US Federal Railroad Administration Regulation) (FRA) (2018 Edition) The Law Library presents the complete text of the Passenger Train Emergency Preparedness (US Federal Railroad Administration Regulation) (FRA) (2018 Edition). Updated as of May 29, 2018 FRA is amending its existing regulation entitled Passenger Train Emergency Preparedness by revising or clarifying various provisions. The final rule clarifies that railroad personnel who communicate or coordinate with first responders during emergency situations must receive certain initial and periodic training and be subject to operational tests and inspections related to the railroad's emergency preparedness plan. The final rule also clarifies that railroads must develop procedures in their emergency preparedness plans that specifically address the safety of passengers with disabilities during actual and simulated emergency situations, such as during train evacuations. The rule also limits the need for FRA to formally approve certain purely administrative changes to approved emergency preparedness plans. In addition, the final rule

requires that operational tests and inspections be conducted in accordance with a program that meets certain minimum requirements. Finally, the rule removes as unnecessary the provision discussing the preemptive effect of the regulations. This book contains: - The complete text of the Passenger Train Emergency Preparedness (US Federal Railroad Administration Regulation) (FRA) (2018 Edition) - A table of contents with the page number of each section

lirr conductor exam: English Grammar for the Utterly Confused Laurie Rozakis, 2003-06-22 For students who want to learn the nuts and bolts of English grammar A generation ago, the United States public school system stopped formal instruction in English grammar and consequently created a legion of students and professionals notoriously weak in writing and language skills. English Grammar for the Utterly Confused is a must-have for anyone who gets that "deer-in-the-headlights look when asked to recognize a misplaced modifier or even find the verb in a sentence. This user-friendly, witty guide helps everyone—from students taking the GED to professionals writing business plans—learn the structures of English grammar and how to use them easily and proficiently. Demystifying grammar once and for all, this handbook will help all readers acquire the ability to speak and write competently, correctly, and confidently. Key features include: Exercises throughout to develop facility in writing skills Clear explanations of complex concepts Handy icons More than 200 solved problems and examples Test Yourself section in each chapter

lirr conductor exam: Homesick for Another World Ottessa Moshfegh, 2017-01-17 A New York Times Book Review Notable Book of 2017 An electrifying first collection from one of the most exciting short story writers of our time I can't recall the last time I laughed this hard at a book. Simultaneously, I'm shocked and scandalized. She's brilliant, this young woman.—David Sedaris Ottessa Moshfegh's debut novel Eileen was one of the literary events of 2015. Garlanded with critical acclaim, it was named a book of the year by The Washington Post and the San Francisco Chronicle, nominated for a National Book Critics Circle Award, short-listed for the Man Booker Prize, and won the PEN/Hemingway Award for debut fiction. But as many critics noted, Moshfegh is particularly held in awe for her short stories. Homesick for Another World is the rare case where an author's short story collection is if anything more anticipated than her novel. And for good reason. There's something eerily unsettling about Ottessa Moshfegh's stories, something almost dangerous, while also being delightful, and even laugh-out-loud funny. Her characters are all unsteady on their feet in one way or another; they all yearn for connection and betterment, though each in very different ways, but they are often tripped up by their own baser impulses and existential insecurities. Homesick for Another World is a master class in the varieties of self-deception across the gamut of individuals representing the human condition. But part of the unique quality of her voice, the echt Moshfeghian experience, is the way the grotesque and the outrageous are infused with tenderness and compassion. Moshfegh is our Flannery O'Connor, and Homesick for Another World is her Everything That Rises Must Converge or A Good Man is Hard to Find. The flesh is weak; the timber is crooked; people are cruel to each other, and stupid, and hurtful. But beauty comes from strange sources. And the dark energy surging through these stories is powerfully invigorating. We're in the hands of an author with a big mind, a big heart, blazing chops, and a political acuity that is needle-sharp. The needle hits the vein before we even feel the prick.

lirr conductor exam: Stardust Dads Josephine C. George, David R. George, 2008-10-17 The e-mail Danny and Allison read on their new computer in 1996 looks no different from the millions of others received by Web users around the world, with one glaring exception--it was sent by their dads who died during the 1970s. While residing in the afterworld at an amenity-laden paradise called Midway Manor, guitar-strumming Mickey Parks and piano-playing Lloyd Wallace monitor and manipulate the lives of their adult children on earth from the mid-'70s through the 1990s. Tampering with the facility's sophisticated computer, the dads thrust Mickey's daughter Allison and Lloyd's son Danny into a passionate but sometimes stormy relationship—a relationship steeped in Danny's heavy drinking and entangled in the often-zany world of men's adventure magazine publishing. After carefully implementing a plan to send their son and daughter a gift of knowledge that could enrich their lives forever, the dads' brief contact is cut short. They are banished to another destination in

the afterworld, but not before they impart indisputable proof of life after death--and unwittingly put Danny's and Allison's earthbound lives on the line.

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