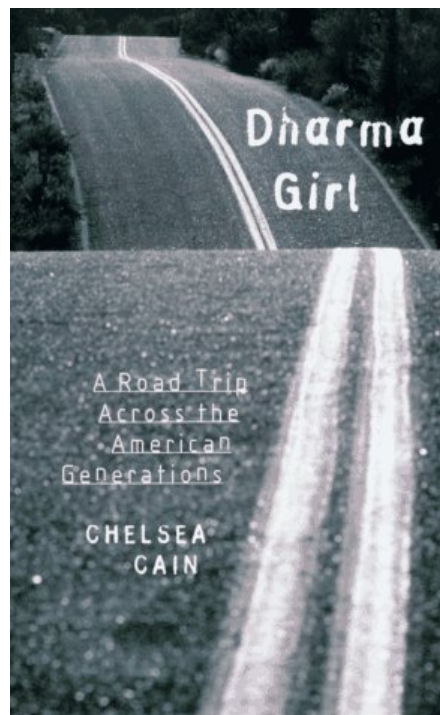




Dharma Girl: A Road Trip Across the American Generations

Chelsea Cain

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Dharma Girl: A Road Trip Across the American Generations Chelsea Cain

Ignited out of complacency by news of her mother's cancer diagnosis, 23-year-old Chelsea Cain embarks on a revolution of self to the beat of the road. Cain and her mother set out for Iowa, and the site of the hippie commune where they lived nearly twenty years earlier. Dharma Girl presents an unforgettable journey about home, loss and self-discovery, and a deeply personal manifesto that sheds new light on the philosophical intersections of two of the most written-about generations of the 20th century.

Dharma Girl: A Road Trip Across the American Generations Details

Date : Published October 23rd 1996 by Seal Press (first published October 1st 1996)

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Author : Chelsea Cain

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Genre : Nonfiction, Autobiography, Memoir, Travel

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Jess says

This book was really touching, and funny too. It made me feel nostalgic for my own childhood. In a strange way too, I felt like I wanted the life that Chelsea's parents had. Living on a farm/commune, living off the land, being free from society.

The book begins with Chelsea realizing how meaningless her own life has become, her neat little life in Irvine, California. She realized she wants more, wants to be more. It was close to home for me, since I feel a bit in the same place right now. I dream of leaving California and going back to find my own Iowa City.

Carrie Pirmann says

books I've read, memoir

Greta says

Driving cross country with her mother allows our narrator & author, Chelsea Cain, to review and revisit the part of her childhood she shared with her folks in Iowa. The honesty feedback serves both mother and daughter well, and strengthens recall of years of communal living on an Iowa farm. The drive itself is uneventful, and their arrival quiet, but the unanswered questions vanish like clouds in dramatic, strong wind.

Marie says

After hearing Chelsea Cain speak at a writers' conference banquet this summer and reading the first two of her thriller novels, I decided to go back to her very first book, which she published at the tender age of 23.

When I was a young girl, I always felt that I'd been born in the wrong era and was fascinated with "hippie" culture. Not so much the drugs, rock and roll, and sex, but more the living on a farm, growing vegetables, commune type of experience. In reality, I probably would have hated the communal living.

When Cain's mother is diagnosed with melanoma, she decides she'd like to move back to Iowa, where she was born and raised on a commune farm. She and her mother drive from Portland to Iowa City, where she sets up camp for awhile. The book chronicles their road trip and their early days in Iowa. It turned out to be a quick read, and I enjoyed the stories about the early days of "Snowbird" and how she remembers her childhood.

Barbara says

Picked this up while picking up the latest Joe Queenan. It was very short. I liked its take on Gen-x and the

Hippie generation. I like when she's feeling dissatisfied about her Cali life and how they don't do anything. I feel bad for her roomie who can't track it. I was pretty happy with it.

Russty says

Interesting book...

One unanswered question: There seemed to be plenty of time, at some point, for her mom to take the picture made in the middle of the field in her undies... Maybe not on the initial trip, but on a follow-up???

Kathy Pedersen says

I liked this short memoir, but I didn't give it 4 stars because I wish it were longer. I love the heart and emotion in it. I didn't like that there were so many characters that were apparently important to her life, but I didn't have any feeling about the characters. I guess if the memoir had been longer, I would have felt more into it.

Daisy says

June 2016

This is probably the fifth time I have read this book over the years, and I realized as I read it today (yes, in one day), that I go back to Iowa City each summer for the same reason as Chelsea (who worked on the Daily Iowan at the same time I did, although I doubt very much she knows me).

"It's me," I tell her. "I've come back to help you look for berries."

March 2014

Not a favorite because it is great literature, like *Wuthering Heights*, but a favorite because it is a good counterculture book with many references to my beloved Iowa City.

Diana H. says

An interesting non-fiction title from an excellent horror/mystery/thriller writer.

This is a story about Chelsea as she was growing up with hippie parents and how she went home to Iowa to find herself as an adult.

Well-written and pretty interesting.

A nice read.

Noni Barker says

A short, easy to read memoir by a not famous woman. Pleasant reading. A nice break from novels, mysteries, and historical romances that are my frequent fare. You may especially like it if you come from Iowa!

Shooptroopies says

Actually not sure when I read it but it was a long time ago. (Her mother had been a patient where I worked.) I remember Chelsea saying then that if she wrote another book, it would not be about her relatives. I'm happy too see that she has written MANY more books.

Janilyn Kocher says

A touching memoir of a young woman heading back to Iowa, retracing her hippie parents' roots. I enjoyed reading the family history.

Kim says

I was actually a little sad when this book ended! I loved the style of writing...easy yet poetic in it's own simple beauty. I could really relate to the author and her experiences. Overall, I loved this book!

Sheela Word says

3.5 stars. The author takes a trip to Iowa, relives her early years on a hippie commune, and develops some insights about how she relates to her parents and the larger world. The book was well-written and interesting, but felt a little slight. Also, in some passages the author describes one of her past selves in the third person ("Snowbird comes in," etc.) or even has a conversation with that self -- a device that I didn't much care for.

Michael says

I got hooked on Cain's heat series and couldn't stop until I read them all now I'm anxious for the next installment. This is a lovely little tale about growing up in a 70's commune and coming of age while starting at Iowa Writers Workshop a very pleasant read.
