



The Dharma Bums

By Jack Kerouac

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Jack Kerouac's classic novel about friendship, the search for meaning, and the allure of nature

First published in 1958, a year after *On the Road* put the Beat Generation on the map, *The Dharma Bums* stands as one of Jack Kerouac's most powerful and influential novels. The story focuses on two ebullient young Americans--mountaineer, poet, and Zen Buddhist Japhy Ryder, and Ray Smith, a zestful, innocent writer--whose quest for Truth leads them on a heroic odyssey, from marathon parties and poetry jam sessions in San Francisco's Bohemia to solitude and mountain climbing in the High Sierras.

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The Dharma Bums By Jack Kerouac Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

One of the best and most popular of Kerouac's autobiographical novels, *The Dharma Bums* is based on experiences the writer had during the mid-1950s while living in California, after he'd become interested in Buddhism's spiritual mode of understanding. One of the book's main characters, Japhy Ryder, is based on the real poet Gary Snyder, who was a close friend and whose interest in Buddhism influenced Kerouac. This book is a must-read for any serious Kerouac fan.

Review

"In [*On the Road*] Kerouac's heroes were sensation seekers; now they are seekers after truth . . . the novel often attains a beautiful dignity, and builds towards a moving climax."

--*The Chicago Tribune*

"In his often brilliant descriptions of nature one is aware of exhilarating power and originality . . . the entire cast of characters is presented with that not unrefreshing blend of naivete and sophistication that seems to be this author's forte."

--*The New York Times Book Review*

"Full of sparkling descriptions of landscape and weather, light falling through trees, the smell of snow, the motion of animals . . . Jack Kerouac is a writer who cannot be charged with dullness."

--*The Atlantic*

About the Author

Jack Kerouac (1922-1969), the central figure of the Beat Generation, was born in Lowell, Massachusetts, in 1922 and died in St. Petersburg, Florida, in 1969. Among his many novels are **On the Road**, **The Dharma Bums**, **Big Sur**, and **Visions of Cody**.

Users Review

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