

the road jack kerouac

[#Jack Kerouac](#) [#On the Road](#) [#Beat Generation literature](#) [#American travel novel](#) [#Road trip fiction](#)

Explore the iconic world of Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*, a seminal work defining the Beat Generation and American literature. This powerful travel novel vividly captures the raw energy, existential quest, and enduring spirit of freedom through exhilarating cross-country road trip adventures, making it a timeless classic.

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On the Road

'I read On the Road in maybe 1959. It changed my life like it changed everyone else's' Bob Dylan
Sal Paradise, a young innocent, joins his hero, the mystical traveller Dean Moriarty, on a breathless, exuberant ride back and forth across the United States. Their hedonistic search for release or fulfilment through drink, sex, drugs and jazz becomes an exploration of personal freedom, a test of the limits of the American dream. A brilliant blend of fiction and autobiography, Jack Kerouac's exhilarating novel swings to the rhythms of 1950s underground America, racing towards the sunset with unforgettable exuberance, poignancy and autobiographical passion. One of the most influential and important novels of the 20th century, this is the book that launched the Beat Generation and remains the bible of that literary movement.

On the Road

The legendary novel of freedom and the search for authenticity that defined a generation, now in a striking new Penguin Classics Deluxe Edition Inspired by Jack Kerouac's adventures with Neal Cassady, On the Road tells the story of two friends whose cross-country road trips are a quest for meaning and true experience. Written with a mixture of sad-eyed naiveté and wild ambition and imbued with Kerouac's love of America, his compassion for humanity, and his sense of language as jazz, On the Road is the quintessential American vision of freedom and hope, a book that changed American literature and changed anyone who has ever picked it up.

Jack Kerouac's On the Road

Presents ten critical essays published between 1973 and 2001 on Jack Kerouac's "On the Road," and includes a chronology, a bibliography, and an introduction by Harold Bloom.

On the Road

A reproduction of Kerouac's original 1951 scroll draft of "On the Road" offers insight into the writer's thematic vision and narrative voice as influenced by the American literary, musical, and visual arts of the post-World War II period.

Jack Kerouac: Road Novels 1957-1960 (LOA #174)

Presents Jack Kerouac's novel "On the Road" along with four other of his autobiographical "road books" and journal entries related to "On the Road."

The First Third

Autobiographical writing by the "hero" of Jack Kerouac's *On the road*.

Hit the Road, Jack

In this delightful picture book, loosely inspired by Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*, a scat-singing, bebopping jackrabbit travels across the United States and marvels at all the wonders that the country reveals—from hopping on the subway in New York City to playing a jukebox in Chicago, and from gazing at Mount Rushmore to crossing the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. Written in the rhythm and spirit of Beat poetry, *Hit the Road, Jack* is an exuberant story of experiencing all the country has to offer with wide-eyed awe.

Summary and Analysis

This is a summary/study guide of the book. *On the Road* is a novel by American writer Jack Kerouac, based on the travels of Kerouac and his friends across the United States. It is considered a defining work of the postwar Beat and Counterculture generations, with its protagonists living life against a backdrop of jazz, poetry, and drug use. The novel, published in 1957, is a roman à clef, with many key figures in the Beat movement, such as William S. Burroughs (Old Bull Lee), Allen Ginsberg (Carlo Marx) and Neal Cassady (Dean Moriarty) represented by characters in the book, including Kerouac himself as the narrator Sal Paradise. The idea for *On the Road*, Kerouac's second novel, was formed during the late 1940s in a series of notebooks, and then typed out on a continuous reel of paper during three weeks in April 1951. It was first published by Viking Press in 1957. When the book was originally released, *The New York Times* hailed it as "the most beautifully executed, the clearest and the most important utterance yet made by the generation Kerouac himself named years ago as 'beat, ' and whose principal avatar he is." In 1998, the Modern Library ranked *On the Road* 55th on its list of the 100 best English-language novels of the 20th century. The novel was chosen by Time magazine as one of the 100 best English-language novels from 1923 to 2005.

What's Your Road, Man?

Combining essays from renowned Kerouac experts and emerging scholars, *What's Your Road, Man?* draws on an enormous amount of research into the literary, social, cultural, biographical, and historical contexts of Kerouac's canonical novel. Since its publication in 1957, *On the Road* has remained in print and has continued to be one of the most widely read twentieth-century American novels.

Book of Dreams

"In the *Book of Dreams* I just continue the same story but in the dreams I had of the real-life characters I always write about." Excerpt: WALKING THROUGH SLUM SUBURBS of Mexico City I'm stopped by smiling threesome of cats who've disengaged themselves from the general fairly crowded evening street of brown lights, coke stands, tortillas-Unmistakably going to steal my bag-I struggled a little, gave up-Begin communicating with them my distress and in fact do so well they end up just stealing parts of my stuff! We walk off leaving the bag with someone-arm in arm like a gang to the downtown lights of Letran, across a field- Jack Kerouac (1922-1969) was a principal actor in the Beat Generation, a companion of Allen Ginsberg and Neal Cassady in that great adventure. His books include *On the Road*, *The Dharma Bums*, *Mexico City Blues*, *Lonesome Traveler*, *Scattered Poems*, *Visions of Cody*, *Pomes All Sizes*, and *Scripture of the Golden Eternity*.

Off the Road

Neal Cassady was a living legend immortalized in the bible of the Beat generation, Jack Kerouac's "On the Road." In this vivid account of the people who brought this country into the 1960s, Neal's wife captures the turbulence and raw excitement of her years with Cassady, Kerouac, and poet Allen Ginsberg.

The Road

The post-apocalyptic modern classic with an introduction by novelist John Banville. In a burned-out America, a father and his young son walk under a darkened sky, heading slowly for the coast. They have no idea what, if anything, awaits them there. The landscape is destroyed, nothing moves save the ash on the wind and cruel, lawless men stalk the roadside, lying in wait. Attempting to survive in this brave new world, the young boy and his protector have nothing but a pistol to defend themselves. They must keep walking. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, *The Road* is an incandescent novel, the story of a remarkable and profoundly moving journey. In this unflinching study of the best and worst of humankind, Cormac McCarthy boldly divines a future without hope, but one in which, miraculously, this young family finds tenderness. An exemplar of post-apocalyptic writing, *The Road* is a true modern classic, a masterful, moving and increasingly prescient novel. This edition is part of the Picador Collection, a series of the best in contemporary literature, inaugurated in Picador's 50th Anniversary year.

At the End of the Road

"We had finally found the magic land at the end of the road and we never dreamed the extent of the magic." Mexico, an escape route, inspiration, and ecstatic terminus of the celebrated novel *On the Road*, was crucial to Jack Kerouac's creative development. In this dramatic and highly compelling account, Jorge García-Robles, leading authority on the Beats in Mexico, re-creates both the actual events and the literary imaginings of Kerouac in what became the writer's revelatory terrain. Providing Kerouac an immediate spiritual freshness that contrasted with the staid society of the United States, Mexico was perhaps the single most important country in his life. Sourcing material from the Beat author's vast output and revealing correspondence, García-Robles vividly describes the milieu and people that influenced him while sojourning there and the circumstances between his myriad arrivals and departures. From the writer's initial euphoria upon encountering Mexico and its fascinating tableau of humanity to his tortured relationship with a Mexican prostitute who inspired his novella *Tristessa*, this volume chronicles Kerouac's often illusory view of the country while realistically detailing the incidents and individuals that found their way into his poetry and prose. In juxtaposing Kerouac's idyllic image of Mexico with his actual experiences of being extorted, assaulted, and harassed, García-Robles offers the essential Mexican perspective. Finding there the spiritual nourishment he was starved for in the United States, Kerouac held fast to his idealized notion of the country, even as the stories he recounts were as much literary as real.

Burning Furiously Beautiful: The True Story of Jack Kerouac's on the Road

Fueled by coffee and pea soup, Jack Kerouac speed-typed "'On the Road'" in just three weeks in April 1951. He'd been traveling America for the past ten years and now, at last, the furious energy of his experiences flowed through his fingertips in a mad rush, peeling forth on a makeshift scroll that he laboriously taped together. The "'On the Road scroll'" has since become literary legend, and now "'Burning Furiously Beautiful'" sets the record straight, uncovering, among other things, the true story behind one of America's greatest novels. "'Burning Furiously Beautiful'" explores the real lives of the key characters of the novel. Ride along on the real-life adventures through 1940s America that inspired "'On the Road.'" By tracing the evolution of Kerouac's literary development and revealing his startlingly original writing style, this book explains how it took years-not weeks-to ultimately write the seemingly sporadic 1957 novel, "'On the Road.'"

In Love

Hayes's masterpiece is an exquisite depiction of a doomed love affair set in noirish, 1950s New York. In a Manhattan bar, a middle-aged man tells a pretty girl a story: of how he fell into a relationship with a lonely young divorcee; of how one night she was offered a thousand dollars to sleep with a stranger; and of how he and she would subsequently betray each other in turn. In Alfred Hayes's exquisite novella, love - in all its bewildering turns of longing, elation, heartbreak and regret - is dissected with unforgettable honesty and heartbreaking clarity.

Hit the Road, Jack

All travellers know the seductive power of the open road and its suggestions of possibility, escape, renewal, and reinvention. *Hit the Road, Jack* is an interdisciplinary exploration of the significance of the road as reality and metaphor. Engaging with varied cultural mediums such as literature, reality television, philosophy, and political rhetoric, this collection delves deeply into the symbolic implications of the road. Insightful and accessible essays draw upon both classic "road" texts and films, while investigating themes of individual and national freedom, independence and mobility, and destiny. Referencing postmodern theory, gender and queer studies, as well as personal reminiscence and narrative research, *Hit the Road, Jack* considers the impact that identity - particularly race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation - has on the way various journeys are taken. While literary depictions of the road have a long history, scholarship about the phenomenon is sparse. This anthology makes a significant contribution to the study of the road, bringing to light aspects of its iconic status in American culture. Contributors include Paul Attinello (Newcastle University), Stacilee Ford (University of Hong Kong), Eleanor Heginbotham (University of Maryland), Susan Kuyper (Des Moines Area Community College), Gina Marchetti (University of Hong Kong), Cotton Seiler (Dickinson University), Max J. Skidmore (University of Missouri-Kansas City), Gordon Slethaug (University of Southern Denmark), Michael Truscello (Mount Royal University), and Wendy Zierler (Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion, New York).

Last Days in Cleaver Square

FROM THE INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *ASYLUM*, *TRAUMA* AND *THE WARDROBE MISTRESS* 'Wonderful, thrilling' JOHN BANVILLE 'Has pleasure on every page' *TIMES* It's 1975 and Francis McNulty, ageing poet, retired, is living in his childhood home in Cleaver Square with his daughter Gilly. Haunted by memories of the Spanish Civil War, in which he drove an ambulance, he sees awful visions of his old nemesis, General Franco, and is powerfully reminded of a terrible act of betrayal he committed in Spain. When Gilly announces her upcoming marriage, Francis is forced to confront his past, once and for all. 'Impressive' *GUARDIAN* 'A very moving portrayal of a complicated father-daughter relationship, neither of them fully able to break away' RACHEL JOYCE

Wuthering Heights

BE CLASSIC with *Wuthering Heights* introduced by bestselling author S.E. Hinton. Lockwood, the new tenant of Thrushcross Grange on the bleak Yorkshire moors, is forced to seek shelter one night at *Wuthering Heights*, the home of his landlord. There he discovers the history of the tempestuous events that took place years before: how Heathcliff, an orphan, was raised by Mr. Earnshaw as one of his own children. Lockwood learns of the intense and passionate romance between Heathcliff and Cathy Earnshaw, and her betrayal of him. As Heathcliff's bitterness and revenge are visited upon by the next generation, their innocent heirs must struggle to escape the legacy of the past. Heathcliff's terrible vengeance ruins them all - but still his love for Cathy will not die...

Big Sur

'*Big Sur*' is a moving account of a man coming to terms with his own myth, his own talent and his uncontrollable, unrelenting, self-destructive life. Now approaching middle-age, Jack DuLioz retreats to California to escape the pressures of his fame."

The Portable Jack Kerouac

Presents selections from Jack Kerouac's novels, poetry, letters, and essays.

Howl

Beat movement icon and visionary poet, Allen Ginsberg was one of the most influential poets of the twentieth century, and broke boundaries with his fearless, pyrotechnic verse. The apocalyptic 'Howl', originally written as a performance piece, became the subject of an obscenity trial when it was first published in 1956. It is considered to be one of the defining works of the Beat Generation, standing alongside that of Burroughs, Kerouac, and Corso. In it, Ginsberg attacks what he saw as the destructive forces of materialism and conformity in the United States at the time, and takes on issues of sex, drugs and race, simultaneously creating what would become the poetic anthem for US counterculture.

Everyone Dies Famous in a Small Town

The second, highly anticipated novel from Carnegie-shortlisted author Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock. Come on a journey across the rural American West . . . Meet the teenagers who live in the small towns across these states, separated by distance, but whose stories are woven together in the most unexpected of ways. Whether they are brought together by the spread of wildfire, by the priest who's moved from state to state or by the hunt for a missing child, these incredible tales blaze with secrets, rage and love. A novel like no other, this intricate, intense and beautiful book will take your breath away. 'A clever and unusual novel . . . powerful.' Sally Nicholls 'Gorgeous and compelling . . . breathtaking.' Katherine Webber 'A beautiful literary writer.' The Bookseller 'It's cut like a gemstone. Turn the pages, and facets gleam.' Hilary McKay 'Beautifully observed and deeply satisfying.' Lisa Williamson 'Breathes life into wonderful, complex characters.' Lisa Heathfield 'A heartbreakingly brilliant tangle of teenage voices.' Judith Eagle

Content warning: child abuse, arson, bereavement, addiction

Jack Kerouac's On the Road. Intertextuality and Allusion in the Novel

Scientific Essay from the year 2007 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, , language: English, abstract: The novel On the Road by Jack Kerouac is often characterised as a travelogue. To a certain degree, this might work since the author made some travels around the United States before working on the Novel. Even the routes of his trips resemble to some degree the routes within On the Road. In 1947 Kerouac travelled from New York to Illinois, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, California and back to New York. In 1950, he took another long trip, which led him from New York to Denver, Texas and Mexico. Nevertheless On the Road is more than a description of autobiographic experiences on the road. Other critics underline the autobiographic role of balancing accounts with his friendship to Neal Cassidy who serves in the alias of Dean within the novel. Others criticized the novel as being no more than a manifest for the Beat culture, a "puff piece" for a life as tramp, consuming drugs and departure from a "normal life". This work will try to point out some of the meanings and allusions hidden in the novel. Chapter 1 will set On the Road in connection with earlier "hobo-literature" to elucidate Kerouac's ideals of a life as a tramp. As a kind of travelogue On the Road is about movement and thus about space. Chapter 2 will show what space or the change of space means for the novel and how it constitutes the matter of time within the novel. Chapter 3 focusses the "dynamics of friendship" - the development of the protagonist's friendship. The last chapter deals with the quest for experience, which is one of the most prominent intertextual ingredients in the novel. On the Road was frequently referred to as "novel of initiation" or description of a spiritual pilgrimage.

The Subterraneans

'The tender and achingly poetic account of a love affair' Lester Bangs, Rolling Stone Leo Percepied, aspiring writer and self-styled freewheeling bum, gravitates to the subterraneans, impoverished intellectuals who haunt the bars of San Francisco. One of them is Mardou Fox, beautiful and a little crazy, whose dark eyes, full of suffering and sweetness, find recognition in Leo. But, afraid of his growing involvement, Leo sets out to destroy their love. Written in three days, The Subterraneans is, like all Kerouac's work, closely related to his own life while encapsulating his great vision of America.

Reality Sandwiches, 1953-60

Poems.

You'll Be Okay

Discusses the lives and marriage of Edie Parker Kerouac and Jack Kerouac.

The Dharma Bums

Two ebullient young men are engaged in a passionate search for dharma, or truth. Their major adventure is the pursuit of the Zen way, which takes them climbing into the high Sierras to seek the lesson of solitude, a lesson that has a hard time surviving their forays into the pagan groves of San Francisco's Bohemia with its marathon wine-drinking bouts, poetry jam sessions, experiments in "yabyum," and similar nonascetic pastimes.

Jack Kerouac's American Journey

A Kerouac scholar traces the true adventures behind the twentieth century classic novel and discusses the real-life inspirations for the novel's memorable characters.

The 100 Best Novels in English

LITERARY COMPANIONS, BOOK REVIEWS & GUIDES. Everybody loves a list but this is a list of major ambition: namely, to select the best 100 novels in the English language, published from the late 17th century to the present day. This list has been built up week by week in *The Observer* since September 2013, and selected by writer and *Observer* editor Robert McCrum. With a short critique on each book, this is a real delight for literary lovers.

The View from On the Road

Through careful analysis of Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*, Omar Swartz argues that Kerouac's influence on American society is largely rhetorical. Kerouac's significance as a cultural icon can be best understood, Swartz asserts, in terms of traditional rhetorical practices and principles. To Swartz, Kerouac is a rhetor who symbolically reconstructs his world and offers arguments and encouragements for others to follow. Swartz proposes that *On the Road* constitutes a "rhetorical vision," a reality-defining discourse suggesting alternative possibilities for growth and change. Swartz asserts that the reader of Kerouac's *On the Road* becomes capable of responding to the larger, confusing culture in a strategic manner. Kerouac's rhetorical vision of an alternative social and cultural reality contributes to the identity of localized cultures within the United States.

Rebellious Ideals of the Beat Generation in Kerouac's *On the Road*. Turning-Away from Mainstream America

Seminar paper from the year 2017 in the subject Didactics - English - Literature, Works, grade: 2,2, University of Constance, language: English, abstract: This paper deals with the portrayal of the essential beliefs and ideals of the Beat Generation in Jack Kerouac's novel "On the Road". It will prove that these beliefs are illustrated through the lifestyles of Sal Paradise and Dean Moriarty during their journey. As the major characters of the novel, who clearly did not live up to society's expectations of Post-War-America Dean and Sal are the perfect examples for the beats. To achieve this aim, this paper will critically examine how the ideas of the Beat Generation can be found in the novel. The ideals referred to will include a non-conformity towards society's expectations and a rebellious attitude towards the mainstream society. Furthermore, an inner drive to travel, to be on the road and to search for meaning are reoccurring motifs and beliefs of the protagonists. Lastly, Sal and Dean start to turn towards different, Non-American cultures, in order to find the meaning of life. The paper will begin with an examination of the rebellious attitude of the protagonists to find the motivation and source of their rebellion, which leads to their non-conformity. Regarding the mentioned non-conformity, the paper will investigate how Sal and Dean did not conform to given rules and expectations and to what extent they carried out their non-conformism. Moreover, the underlying meaning of the journeys in the novel and the reason for their transcendental reach will be surveyed. Additionally, the paper will examine if Sal and Dean even knew why they were traveling and searching, or if they were on the road for the sake of being on the move.

On the Road

The legendary 1951 scroll draft of *On the Road*, published word for word as Kerouac originally composed it Though Jack Kerouac began thinking about the novel that was to become *On the Road* as early as 1947, it was not until three weeks in April 1951, in an apartment on West Twentieth Street in Manhattan, that he wrote the first full draft that was satisfactory to him. Typed out as one long, single-spaced paragraph on eight long sheets of tracing paper that he later taped together to form a 120 foot scroll, this document is among the most significant, celebrated, and provocative artifacts in contemporary American literary history. It represents the first full expression of Kerouac's revolutionary aesthetic, the identifiable point at which his thematic vision and narrative voice came together in a sustained burst of creative energy. It was also part of a wider vital experimentation in the American literary, musical, and visual arts in the post-World War II period. It was not until more than six years later, and several new drafts, that Viking published, in 1957, the novel known to us today. On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of *On the Road*, Viking will publish the 1951 scroll in a standard book format. The differences between the two versions are principally ones of significant detail and altered emphasis. The scroll is slightly longer and has a heightened linguistic virtuosity and a more sexually frenetic

tone. It also uses the real names of Kerouac's friends instead of the fictional names he later invented for them. The transcription of the scroll was done by Howard Cunnell who, along with Joshua Kupetz, George Mouratidis, and Penny Vlagopoulos, provides a critical introduction that explains the fascinating compositional and publication history of *On the Road* and anchors the text in its historical, political, and social context.

The Town and the City

Legions of youthful Americans have taken *On the Road* as a manifesto for rebellion and an inspiration to hit the road. But there is much more to the book than that. In *Why Kerouac Matters*, John Leland embarks on a wry, insightful, and playful discussion of the novel, arguing that it still matters because it lays out an alternative road map to growing up. Along the way, Leland overturns many misconceptions about *On the Road* as he examines the lessons that Kerouac's alter ego, Sal Paradise, absorbs and dispenses on his novelistic journey to manhood, and how those lessons—about work and money, love and sex, art and holiness—still reverberate today.

Why Kerouac Matters

Jack Kerouac's "*On the Road*" was a touchstone for a generation and the centerpiece of the Beat movement in literature and art. This text by Isaac Gewirtz examines Kerouac's life and career, his counter-culture vision, and his relationships with Allen Ginsberg, William S. Burroughs, and other Beats. Scala Publishers

Beatific Soul

Oakley Hall's legendary *Warlock* revisits and reworks the traditional conventions of the Western to present a raw, funny, hypnotic, ultimately devastating picture of American unreality. First published in the 1950s, at the height of the McCarthy era, *Warlock* is not only one of the most original and entertaining of modern American novels but a lasting contribution to American fiction. "Tombstone, Arizona, during the 1880's is, in ways, our national Camelot: a never-never land where American virtues are embodied in the Earps, and the opposite evils in the Clanton gang; where the confrontation at the OK Corral takes on some of the dry purity of the Arthurian joust. Oakley Hall, in his very fine novel *Warlock* has restored to the myth of Tombstone its full, mortal, blooded humanity. Wyatt Earp is transmogrified into a gunfighter named Blaisdell who . . . is summoned to the embattled town of Warlock by a committee of nervous citizens expressly to be a hero, but finds that he cannot, at last, live up to his image; that there is a flaw not only in him, but also, we feel, in the entire set of assumptions that have allowed the image to exist. . . . Before the agonized epic of *Warlock* is over with—the rebellion of the proto-Wobblies working in the mines, the struggling for political control of the area, the gunfighting, mob violence, the personal crises of those in power—the collective awareness that is *Warlock* must face its own inescapable Horror: that what is called society, with its law and order, is as frail, as precarious, as flesh and can be snuffed out and assimilated back into the desert as easily as a corpse can. It is the deep sensitivity to abysses that makes *Warlock* one of our best American novels. For we are a nation that can, many of us, toss with all aplomb our candy wrapper into the Grand Canyon itself, snap a color shot and drive away; and we need voices like Oakley Hall's to remind us how far that piece of paper, still fluttering brightly behind us, has to fall." —Thomas Pynchon

Warlock

An experimental novel which remained unpublished for years, *Visions of Cody* is Kerouac's fascinating examination of his own New York life, in a collection of colourful stream-of-consciousness essays. Transcribing taped conversations between members of their group as they took drugs and drank, this book reveals an intimate portrait of people caught up in destructive relationships with substances, and one another. Always fixated by Neal Cassady - the Cody of the title, renamed for the book along with Allen Ginsberg and William Burroughs - Kerouac also explores the feelings he had for a man who would inspire much of his work.

Visions of Cody

'I want to be considered a jazz poet blowing a long blues in an afternoon jam session on Sunday' Freewheeling and spontaneous, *Mexico City Blues* is Jack Kerouac's most significant and emblematic poem. Consisting of 242 loosely linked 'choruses', it takes in life, death, spirituality, jazz improvisation,

memory, fantasies and dreams, all infused with the rhythm of the blues, to create a surreal and all-encompassing epic. 'A spontaneous bop prosody and original classic literature' Allen Ginsberg 'A jazz poet. His sentences frequently move into tempestuous sweeps and whorls and sometimes they have something of the rich music of Gerard Manley Hopkins or Dylan Thomas' The New York Herald Tribune

Mexico City Blues

Noted writer Jay Atkinson recreates Jack Kerouac's legendary On the Road journeys in contemporary North America Jack Kerouac's iconic 1950s novel On the Road is a Beat Generation classic, chronicling the adventures and misadventures of Kerouac's travels crisscrossing North America with Neal Cassady, William Burroughs, Allen Ginsberg, and other colorful companions. Now gifted writer Jay Atkinson hits the road to retrace Kerouac's legendary journey today. The author's experiences offer fascinating insights on American culture and society then and now and illuminate his own quest for self-understanding and discovery. Contrasts the life and landscape of Kerouac's 1940s and 1950s America with the realities today Filled with unexpected adventures and strangers encountered on Atkinson's trips to New York, New Orleans, Chicago, Denver, Mexico City, and the California coast Reveals Atkinson's engaging reflections on the search for personal identity and self Other titles by Jay Atkinson: Ice Time (a Publishers Weekly Notable Book of the Year) and Legends of Winter Hill (a Boston Globe bestseller) as well as the novels City in Amber and Caveman Politics Absorbing and beautifully written, Paradise Road is essential reading for Kerouac fans as well as lovers of engaging travel memoirs and anyone interested in American life and culture.

Paradise Road

William S. Burroughs arrived in Mexico City in 1949, having slipped out of New Orleans while awaiting trial on drug and weapons charges that would almost certainly have resulted in a lengthy prison sentence. Still uncertain about being a writer, he had left behind a series of failed business ventures—including a scheme to grow marijuana in Texas and sell it in New York—and an already long history of drug use and arrests. He would remain in Mexico for three years, a period that culminated in the defining incident of his life: Burroughs shot his common-law wife, Joan Vollmer, while playing William Tell with a loaded pistol. (He would be tried and convicted of murder in absentia after fleeing Mexico.) First published in 1995 in Mexico, where it received the Malcolm Lowry literary essay award, *The Stray Bullet* is an imaginative and riveting account of Burroughs's formative experiences in Mexico, his fascination with Mexico City's demimonde, his acquaintances and friendships there, and his contradictory attitudes toward the country and its culture. Mexico, Jorge García-Robles makes clear, was the place in which Burroughs embarked on his "fatal vocation as a writer." Through meticulous research and interviews with those who knew Burroughs and his circle in Mexico City, García-Robles brilliantly portrays a time in Burroughs's life that has been overshadowed by the tragedy of Joan Vollmer's death. He re-creates the bohemian Roma neighborhood where Burroughs resided with Joan and their children, the streets of postwar Mexico City that Burroughs explored, and such infamous figures as Lola la Chata, queen of the city's drug trade. This compelling book also offers a contribution by Burroughs himself—an evocative sketch of his shady Mexican attorney, Bernabé Jurado.

The Stray Bullet