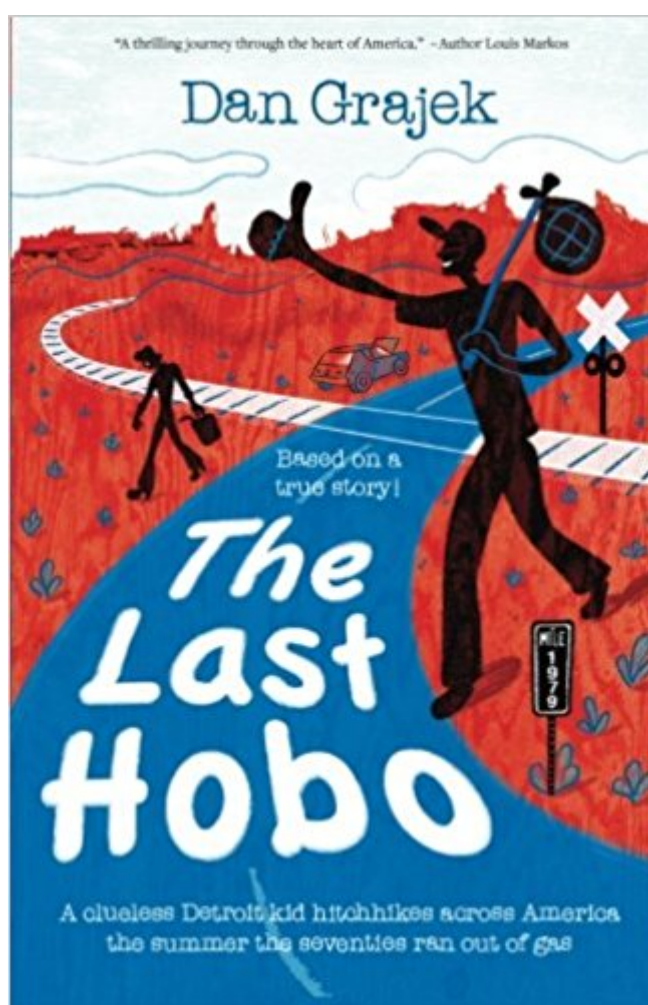


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The Last Hobo: A Clueless Detroit Kid Hitchhikes Across America The Summer The Seventies Ran Out Of Gas (Volume 1)



Synopsis

IT'S FOURTH-OF-JULY WEEK 1979. America is a psychological mess! Prices are sky-high because of the energy crisis. There's been a nuclear mishap at Three Mile Island. President Jimmy Carter had mysteriously "vanished." What a time for 19-year old Ted Granger to act out his dream of being a hobo! Seeking thrills, adventure, and freedom, he set out to hitchhike across the U.S. The Last Hobo captures the fun, hilarity, and anxiety of a fantasy-fueled road trip colliding with reality. Based on a true story, the book is a colorful portrait of America and its people during a weird time: the tumultuous transition from the 70s to the 80s. An older-and-wiser Ted narrates the tale with a unique perspective: He's from Detroit, the very icon of America's highest dreams and its worst nightmares.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A FUN, ENTERTAINING STORY about life on the road-the life of a true-hearted hobo-when America felt itself toppling into decline. This book gives you a sense of the soul-searching quests many went on during the tail end of the so-called 'Me Decade.'" - Kevin Mattson, author of eight books including What the Heck Are You Up To, Mr. President? TV and radio commentator. Featured historian in The Seventies, the Tom Hanks-produced miniseries on CNN. "PERSONAL . . . WELL-WRITTEN . . . DEEP . . . reveals what it was like to be a restless and adventurous youth in a bygone time." - Tom Grimm, author of The Hitchhiker's Handbook . "LIKE KEROUAC AND STEINBECK, it takes us on a thrilling journey through the heart of America. Although it takes place in 1979, the book offers a snapshot of who we are right now in the twenty-first century. "As readers

enjoy its breezy spirit and its sharp, often bemused observation, they will be challenged to consider with fresh eyes the current wrestling match for America's soul. "Those on all sides of the political divide-even those with the 'sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll' mentality-are not judged but treated with compassion. Most significant of all, the author presents everyone as yearning for the same thing: something deeper and richer beyond the shenanigans." - Louis Markos, author of seven books, including *On the Shoulders of Hobbits: The Road to Virtue with Tolkien and Lewis* . "A combination of F. Scott Fitzgerald and James Patterson. Brilliant use of Americana. A quick easy read for a lazy afternoon." - Jan Speck, avid reader, high school administrator""A fun, entertaining story about life on the road-the life of a true-hearted hobo-when America felt itself toppling into decline. This book gives you a sense of the soul-searching quests many went on during the tail end of the so-called 'Me Decade.'" - Kevin Mattson, author of eight books including *What the Heck Are You Up To, Mr. President?* TV and radio commentator. Featured historian in *The Seventies*, the Tom Hanks-produced miniseries on CNN. "personal . . . well-written . . . deep . . . reveals what it was like to be a restless and adventurous youth in a bygone time." - Tom Grimm, author of *The Hitchhiker's Handbook* . "Like Kerouac and Steinbeck, it takes us on a thrilling journey through the heart of America. Although it takes place in 1979, the book offers a snapshot of who we are right now in the twenty-first century. "As readers enjoy its breezy spirit and its sharp, often bemused observation, they will be challenged to consider with fresh eyes the current wrestling match for America's soul. "Those on all sides of the political divide-even those with the 'sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll' mentality-are not judged but treated with compassion. Most significant of all, the author presents everyone as yearning for the same thing: something deeper and richer beyond the shenanigans." - Louis Markos, author of seven books, including *On the Shoulders of Hobbits: The Road to Virtue with Tolkien and Lewis* .

Author Dan Grajek lives in Dearborn, Michigan. By age 20, he had hitchhiked to New York once and California twice. Throughout his life, he's been a graphic designer, a marketing coordinator, and a high school English teacher.

"The Last Hobo" was a wonderful depiction of a time long gone and a world less complicated. The book will capture your heart and mind and take you back through memories and events you thought you had forgotten. It's an amazing tale, well written that takes two teenage boys on a journey of finding themselves and learning life's lessons along the way. The characters come to life and the attention to detail of the places and events are so real and excellently displayed. Looking forward to

the rest of the trilogy! DC

Packed with American pop cultural and historical references, this novel captures the wide-eyed excitement and wonder of a young man's first trip away from home. He meets a spectrum of characters along the way that introduce new ideas to him that we get to see filtered through his rock n roll Americana tinged nerotocism. Even if one hasn't lived through this book's time period, it is likely to inspire a reader to take an adventure of their own.

I'm 25 years old. Though many of the 60s and 70s pop-culture references soared over my head, I thoroughly enjoyed the book. Oddly enough, it reminds me of Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, my all-time favorite book. Like J.K. Rowling's classic, *The Last Hobo* is a funny, thrilling adventure with detours into heavenly and hellish places. Even the characters such as Crow and Mrs. O'Neil remind me of the Harry Potter characters I love. Maybe I'm a little biased (the author is my best friend's dad), but I think the book is truly a masterpiece!

If you can picture a light blue Pinto or a white Gremlin, and you remember what a teach-in is, you'll get a kick out of this book. It tells the tale of the hitchhiking adventure you probably wish you had taken yourself back in the 70s. Or if you are younger, just sit back, take a ride through the old days, and learn something about what makes the baby boomers tick. I thoroughly enjoyed this story and look forward to reading the next one.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book and was excited to read about the journey that was entailed within the pages. Being one who has traveled for the majority of my life, I loved reading about another adventure, especially one that happened in the 70's. By reading this book, I was able to see another perspective of America and how it has evolved in the past 30 years.

The Last Hobo by Dan Grajek is a free NetGalley ebook that I read in mid-June. Grajek tells a multifaceted, first of a three-book series, hitchhiking travelogue that is eerily similar to Rinker Buck's *The Oregon Trail*: hammy, freeform, take-it-as-it-comes, nutty as a bowl of granola, and full of small-scale lafs.

Wow, what a amazing trip! I'm not one for leaving reviews, but Dan Grajek has really presented a

compelling and humorous psuedo-history of a schizophrenic time in America. Fact or fiction? Who cares? It was a lot of fun to read. I look forward to the rest of the trilogy.

Enjoyed the story and look forward to the next one!

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