



# Hit the Road

*Caroline B. Cooney*

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## **Hit the Road** Caroline B. Cooney

Brit has had her driver's license only 11 days when her parents drop her off to stay at her grandmother's house for two weeks while they go on vacation. Little do they know Brit is headed for a three-state road trip with Nannie to pick up her college roommates, Florence, Aurelia, and Daisy, and bring them to their alma mater for their 65th—and most likely final—reunion.

A reluctant recruit at first, Brit is anxious as well as annoyed when she finds herself responsible for her fragile passengers. But things change as she sits behind the wheel up front and listens to “the girls” in the backseat laugh and reminisce about their 65 years of friendship. Inspired by their lifelong loyalty, Brit is willing to do whatever it takes to get the former college roommates to their reunion safely.

From bestselling author Caroline B. Cooney, a heartwarming look at friendship, both young and old.

## **Hit the Road Details**

Date : Published May 9th 2006 by Delacorte Books for Young Readers

ISBN : 9780385729444

Author : Caroline B. Cooney

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# From Reader Review Hit the Road for online ebook

## Ash says

I was a few pages from the end of the book and ready to give it 4 stars, do a happy dance that it all turned out okay, and call it a day. But nooooo! It's like getting into a movie and then right at the end when everything starts to calm down and you're getting to the conclusion...the screen goes black and the end credits start rolling. You're left there thinking, "What? Is that the ending? Really??". It didn't feel like it really ended. The book did have a sense of finality, but the kind you get from the end of a chapter. I guess the author thought that the rest of the stuff wasn't important to what the message of the book was.

There's no denying that this book was hilarious. Brit(the main character) was funny in her panic. Her grandmother, Nannie, and her friends "the girls" added a whole lot of humor. I liked that the author wrote about the struggles that come with old age, that don't only involve bladder problems and failing memory. You see how as Nannie and her friends get older they begin to lose more and more of their freedom. The book kept me interested until the very "end".

It feels like there should be another book. I would read the sequel to this in hopes of getting the ending that I didn't get from the first one. You're left hanging at the end, and I would've really liked to see how it all worked out. It's a funny and interesting book, but it doesn't feel complete on its own.

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## Trina says

Mediocre. Exciting story but way too much internal waffling. Should I? Shouldn't I? Let's just think about it for several pages.

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## Librariann says

ages 10+ W

When 16 year old Brittany's parents go on an Alaskan cruise, she's supposed to stay with her 86 year old grandmother, Nannie. Little does she know that Nannie has plans up her sleeve to rescue one of her old college roommates - known as 'the girls' - from a nursing home. Armed with an 11 day old drivers license and a rented van, Nannie and Brit are ready to take the ride of their lives. Charming at first. One note 'villain', deus ex machina resolution, abrupt ending - would have liked to see an epilogue where the girls make it to the reunion. Not Cooney's best work, but bound to be appealing.

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## Lydia says

Was one of the best books I ever read

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## **Cheryl says**

The idea of the teen helping the old ladies have one more Reunion is lovely. But the melodrama and the implausibilities are absolutely ridiculous. The girl has had her license just a few days, hasn't driven the highway, learned in an Accord, and now has to immediately go from Connecticut to Long Island in a rented SUV. And there's a truly evil person objecting to the plans. And, though none of the old ladies is actually senile, they're acting like it, having not thought things through at all, and they're physically very fragile. Ok, so they're old, if they don't do this thing cuz they die en route, fine, but to endanger the grand-daughter? Not cool. We really didn't need all that extra bs to have an enjoyable, illuminating inter-generational adventure. Especially the evil son. Just, no.

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## **Adrienne says**

I read this book for a YA literature class, and I chose it because it is up for a Beehive Award. How this got onto that list, I'll never know. The author's style is annoying and just doesn't flow; the plot doesn't get interesting until the last 50 pages and doesn't get resolved until the last 3 pages; the characters don't really have any growth (maybe until the last sentence of the book). The concept is quite cute, but the execution is painful.

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## **Robert Ellington says**

Always respect your elders.

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## **Pirate Queen says**

When 16-year-old Brittany Anne Bowman get dumped off by her parents at her Nannie's hours, she thinks her summer vacation is going to be a complete bore. But when her grandmother, whose car has been sold because she can no longer driver, rents a mini-van and says "Don't worry. I'll navigate; you'll steer. Load the car, Brit. Then we hit the parkway. We have a kidnap scheduled," Brit realizes that her vacation may turn out quite interesting. Just how action-packed she didn't realize, what with the ferry-hopping, impersonating, jewelry-stealing and credit card manipulation, plus Nannie getting abducted by the evil Aston, which wasn't part of the plan. All so that Nannie and her three friends could attend their 65th college reunions.

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## **Carol Wakefield says**

Too implausible for another star. Nice idea of a teenager helping her and other grandmother types. I know 86 yr olds and none act as juvenile as these ladies. Many are both agile and very competent. Somehow the entire story revolves around stereotypes. I'll be careful to avoid teen books after this.

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## Cindy Dyson Eitelman says

The only bad thing about *Hit The Road* was that it was so fast moving I couldn't stop to think. I raced through the ending so fast, I had to read it over next day. I may read the whole thing over tomorrow.

Ever liked a movie so much that you stayed seated and watched it a second time? For me, as an adult, yes--*Revenge Of The Nerds*. And that's the way this book struck me. The driving scenes are hilarious--nearly getting smeared by a semi at seventy miles-per-hour; lanes that narrow down so dramatically you almost lose a mirror; construction codes ahead and--

Your Mom calls.

(The above paragraph may seem like a spoiler, but trust me, it won't spoil anything. It just keeps getting better.)

And they say Americans can't do comedy!

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## Laura bayfield says

i chose to read "hit the road" written by Caroline B.Cooney after my older sister recommended it to me while i was bored with nothing to do. I agree with my sisters review on this book. It was exciting, unpredictable and thrilling.

Hit the road completes the category of a book recommended by a member of your family. This book really suited me because it was adventure cased. my sister gave the me very high expectations of the book and i believe her review was bang on.

my favourite quote in hit the road is the blurb "pack the bags, get in the car, we have a kidnap scheduled ". You would suspect by "kidnap" they mean strong men going to kidnap a child. It fooled me ! turned out it was a funny novel about a teenager and her Nannie who attempt to kidnap there her dear friend Aurelia from a retirement home and saving her from her horrible, money stealing, property taking son.

This novel doesn't have a strong meaning behind it, however i learned about the importance of friendship in situations that involve decisions between friendship and popularity. True friends will stick together trough thick or thin.

The character that interested me through out the novel would have to be the main character Brit. At first she seemed like the perfect child but as each chapter past i found that there was more to her than what i anticipated. She started with a shy personality and as the book continued she learnt to stand up for he rights and opinions.

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## Cherylann says

Caroline B. Cooney has been churning out fun reads for YA for decades. *Hit the Road* is just another awesome summer read in a long line of good summer reads. The plot is fairly simple - 16 year old Brit is dropped off at her grandmother's house while her parents leave for an Alaskan cruise. Shortly after her parents pull out of the driveway, a large GMC Safari van pulls in. Nannie, Brit's grandmother, has decided that they are off to kidnap her college roommate who has been put in a nursing home against her will. The only problem - Nannie is too tiny to drive the large van. So Brit, a brand new driver, and Nannie set off to pick up college roommates and rescue others. Along the way, there is action and suspense. Brit also learns what it means to be a friend as well as a small lesson in ageism. A fun, quick read for summer!

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## Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Me for [TeensReadToo.com](http://TeensReadToo.com)

If you want to read one of the most hilarious books of the summer, then you definitely need to pick up a copy of *HIT THE ROAD* by Caroline B. Cooney. I can't remember the last time I laughed so hard, or so often, while reading a book. If you've always believed that people over the age of eighty are nothing but dried up old husks of their former selves, then you need to meet the Buttermeres: Nannie Rawlings, Florence Mirsky, Aurelia Alan, and Daisy Ferrer. And the girl destined to either make an entire carload of new friends, or go crazy in the process, Brittany Anne Bowman.

Forced into her grandmother's care for two weeks while her parents cruise around Alaska, neither Brit nor Nannie particularly want to be babysat. After her own daughter cut her driver's license in half, took away her car, and left her to gather dust, Nannie Rawlings isn't in the best of moods. She's already missed out on last year's Reunion with her three best friends, but this year is number sixty-five, and she has no intention of not attending. So she gets a new license (through less than noble means), rents a car, and sets off with her granddaughter to pick up her friends. Brit soon realizes that if she wants to make it to the Reunion alive and in one piece, she's going to have to be the driver/chauffeur. Which isn't that bad except for situations like this:

"Nannie!" she yelled. "Read the signs! Tell me what to do! Do we want the Cross Island Parkway? Two-ninety-five? Four-ninety-five? The Van Wyck? The L.I.E.? The Long Island Expressway?"

"Those two are the same road."

"But do we want them?" Brit shrieked.

Thus begins a road trip that no one involved is likely to ever forget. Between convincing her parents via cell phone that they're at Nannie's house watching loud television, and convincing the "girls" that no one at the nursing home will realize they're gone, to avoiding the ruthless, money-hungry son of one of their own, *HIT THE ROAD* is a laugh-out-loud, nonstop story that will have you turning pages long into the night. A winning read that is as emotional as it is funny, Ms. Cooney has penned a definite winner.

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## **Katie Fitzgerald says**

Hit the Road is a 2006 YA novel by Caroline Cooney, which is unusual in the sense that only one main character is a teenager. Brit, who has just gotten her driver's license, is left to stay at her grandmother's house while her parents go on vacation. Shortly after her parents set off on their trip, Brit learns that her grandmother has plans for a road trip. She has rented a car and plans to drive it through three states in order to pick up her dearest friends and bring them to her 65th college reunion. One look at her grandmother tells Brit that she is really in no shape to make this trip, and at first, she tries to convince the old woman to stay home. Before she knows what hit her, however, Brit has agreed to drive her grandmother on her trip, and to assist in the kidnapping of one of her friends from a nursing home! What ensues is a madcap adventure that turns ugly when the son of the nursing-home-bound friend reveals his plans to punish Brit for her involvement in kidnapping his mother.

I originally chose to read this book because it seemed like a fluffy alternative to most of Caroline Cooney's other books, which are typically darker "issue" novels. I didn't think even Cooney could find a way to turn a grandmother/granddaughter road trip into a thriller. I should not have underestimated her. While most of this book is very charming and funny, there are definitely moments of fear and frustration as the villain tries to thwart Brit's plans to deliver her grandmother safely to her reunion. Hit the Road is nowhere near as dark or scary as some of Cooney's other stories (namely Fog), but it isn't as much of a deviation for Cooney as it first appears either.

What impressed me most about this book, overall, is how Cooney is able to keep the story exciting and interesting, even when Brit is basically on her own with four batty old women, doing nothing more than driving and occasionally texting her best friend and the boy she likes. It doesn't sound very exciting to read about such mundane happenings, but Cooney makes it engaging by incorporating flashbacks to Brit's interactions with her crush during the school year, and forcing Brit to respond again and again to the unexpected behavior of her elderly passengers. I suspect the introduction of the villain later in the story might also be an attempt to keep reluctant readers engaged, though I don't necessarily believe that was necessary, as the writing is good enough to carry the story even without all the additional drama. In fact, I think this is one of Cooney's better written books. It doesn't quite match the level of *The Face on the Milk Carton*, but it is definitely worlds better than *Janie Face to Face* or *Fog*.

Keep this book in mind for a summer road trip read, and recommend it to readers who have close relationships with their grandparents. This book is most likely to appeal to younger teens, ages 13 to 15, especially those who have read Cooney before and enjoyed her work. Read-alikes may include *Rules of the Road* by Joan Bauer, *A Long Way from Chicago* by Richard Peck, and *My Life in Pink and Green* by Lisa Greenwald.

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## **Sarah says**

Brit just got her drivers license, which leads to her becoming the driver in her grandmother's kidnapping scheme. Brit grandmother's friend was unjustly put in a retirement home and the two are going to break her out. This novel is a fun road trip book about this experience.

