



When Dreams are Calling

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There is no greater fear than the fear of change and no greater joy than overcoming it.

Inspired by a true story, When Dreams are Calling is a transformational journey through five continents, seven countries that will redefine your idea of courage while making you laugh all the way.

The main character, Dora, is a witty young woman who chases her dreams across continents, from Europe to America, then to Asia, and finally, to the far away shores of Australia. We see the changes she goes through, the price she pays for following her dreams, but also the rewards she gets on the way. Her life is a roller coaster and her plan is nothing more than the confidence that everything will work out for the best. The story is filled with magical words of wisdom that will inspire and delight you, while making you reflect on the beauty of friendship, lust, love and kindness. "Words have power, dreams have power, we have power" is the motif which echoes all through this enthralling novel that bursts with optimism.

When Dreams are Calling Details

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From Reader Review When Dreams are Calling for online ebook

Tracey Hook says

Great travel log! An intimate look at the immigrant experience and how difficult it is leaving one's homeland for the unexpected. Dora is full of wit and strength. A true adventurer in modern day times.

Gabriel says

Beautifully Written, Inspiring and Funny!

I didn't have time to read many books lately, but I am glad I stumbled upon this one. As someone who never stopped searching for happiness I could identify myself with Dora, the main character, and her quest. It is inspiring, delightful and outright funny. The parts I liked the most are the one describing her vacation in Cuba and the one where she argues with her friend that "it has to feel right".

I would recommend this book to anyone who loves travel, adventure and seeks personal growth.

Loredana (Bookinista08) says

At first, when I read the official synopsis of the book, I thought it was a New Adult novel, but boy, oh boy, couldn't I have been more wrong! When Dreams are Calling is a novel for all ages, but more for those who've gone through life a bit and less for those who are still at the beginning. Why I'm saying this?

Because it urges us, in a quite realistic manner, to never stop believing in our dreams and chase them until we manage to be satisfied with the lives we're living. It's a book filled with teachings, with morals, and it seems to me like Carol Vorvain wrote it with great pleasure and with an abundance of life experience.

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Adriana says

A five star book that should turn into a five star movie!

I foresee a day when this book will be translated around the world and the author will keep us all entertained on Oprah's show. What I loved the most about the book is the humour and the dialogues.

Although When Dreams are Calling is Carol Vorvain's first book it could easily compete with any literary masterpiece out there.

The book is divided in three parts: The wake up call, Canada, Learning the Art of Living and Australia, Living the Life of My Dreams.

The first part focuses on the world of a dream chaser, Dora, a smart and curious lady, and adventurer who has more than anything else the guts to always go after what she wants and the confidence that happiness can be achieved.

In the second part Dora embarks on one of the most rewarding journeys one can take: the one to find herself. Her approach to challenges is inspiring and her adventures are presented in a fast paced, engaging tone.

In the third part, lust and other demons, how she names them fill Dora's life with joy, confusion and romance. Dora approaches love in the same way she approaches every other aspect of her life: she gives herself 100% but only if it feels right. I loved the poems that introduce each chapter and her powerful, beautiful reflections. I look forward to her second book.

Cecilia says

I laughed, I traveled, I fell in love. It was a joy to read and I was sorry that it ended.

I loved the choice of words and the twists and the play with the double meanings.

I have spent some time in Peru and Australia, but the way Carol Vorvain describes the places is just magnificent and made me want to revisit all them. She looks beyond the appearances and sees more than a simple traveler does. She makes you understand the philosophy of each place, of its people, through witty and amusing dialogues.

Dora, the main character, is a complex young lady, who will keep you laughing and will delight you with her strong opinions, and quick mind.

Her journey through life is inspiring, her optimism is overwhelming, her joy of life is contagious.

You will want to read this book again and recommend it to all your friends. At least that I can guarantee.

The title of the chapters are also lovely. I will just take 3 of them: Family is forever: Hazard or blessing;

Before jobs there are choices; Melbourne, footie and schizophrenic weather.

I would say more, but I am trying not to spoil anyone's fun.

Have fun reading it! I know I did.

Aly says

Dora has a very clear and loud voice. Carol Vorvain uses this voice consistently and it's easy to catch Dora's personality from just reading what Carol Vorvain has written. Even if we didn't have any dialogue or any interaction with other characters. Not to mention the journal notes that are interspersed throughout *When Dreams are Calling*. It's clear to see Dora's personality shine through and be brought to life. It was almost as if Dora was a real person and I was watching her from afar as she went through her adventures.

I loved the little rhymes at the beginning of each chapter. They gave little clues to what could potentially be happening in the next chapter and it was fun to read them. They were just little silly rhymes that make the readers laugh.

Readers are also given a glimpse into new cultures and even better we get to see it from the perspective of a bouncy, energetic young woman. Being Canadian I, of course, loved the time that Dora spent in Canada and seeing Canada from a different light. I especially loved this quote when she was talking about Tim Horton's: "It's the hidden daily tax Canadians pay for living in the country of the snowman." It made me chuckle and I enjoyed it.

When Dreams are Calling is all about Dora's growth throughout her life. In real life it's hard to see all of the different situations that make a person who they are or even those that shape you until later in life. So I

enjoyed the chance to follow Dora and see those situations that defined her, and helped her to grow. It gave me something to aspire to and I hope that some of the lessons Dora learned I will remember.

When Dreams are Calling is a touching story about a young woman's growth and experiences. It's an inspiring tale and one I believe that everyone should read at least once.

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H. says

This is not the typical type of book I usually read, so I think that it took me longer to read it than most would do. The first part was a little confusing for me, it jumped around a good bit and was hard to follow. The second and third parts I really enjoyed reading the different people and places! At the end, I felt like I had taken a little journey to these places. :)

Kshitij says

Wow! This is the book I think everyone should read. Although written as fiction, the book seemed to be very much inspired by author's life. But the message in it is universal and inspiring and very simple- never give up on your dreams.

Dora, a young woman travels across the world in search for true meaning of life. She struggled with petty jobs and frugal lifestyle but cherished her every experience. And as it happens the experience broadens our horizon, Dora eventually got what she wanted in her life, without compromising with her dreams.

The book is full of wits and life philosophy and the small quotes that Dora fills her journals with are really handy and anyone would be better off following these tips that she gained from her experience. But the best part for me was to read about the exotic locations of Havana, Bali etc- the places I never been but always dream of going.

Pick this feel good book while on journey and you'd savour it.

Tracie Lark says

I joined Dora in her home country of Romania where her youthful and bubbly personality instantly delighted me. Carol Vorvain introduces our new friend and her plight on to the pages through use of dialogue between Dora and Dora's grandma. This small but significant conversation opens a window in to Dora's mind, and shows us her passion for life and the importance of following one's dreams. Dora questions her grandma as well as any preconceived notions of what a life dream should mean to a young girl and aptly communicates to us her awareness of what one may require to follow their dreams: "And so it was. That day, I learned my first lesson: Words have power, dreams have power, we have power."

We continue Dora's journey across several continents to destinations including Canada, South America, Australia, Bali and then Europe. On Dora's journey, we are engaged in what feels like an intimate conversation between Dora and ourselves, one of learning and growth.

While I imagine this may sound a bit too airy fairy to some; Carol has given Dora a witty and humorous voice which means we are constantly engaged and enthralled by her stories and her meaningful lessons she has learned about life, love and happiness: “When one is in distress some will offer a bowl of rice, others a long lecture and the rest will turn around. Be the one who offers a bowl of rice.”

Love is a prominent theme, not just of one’s self but in learning to find and accept it in others. Once again, Dora’s honest and humorous attitude towards love both entertains and empowers us: “God I ask you to give me wisdom to understand my man, enough love to forgive him, patience with his anger and frustrations, because God, if you give me strength, I will kill him.”

Dora teaches us that, “Too much law, order, and care can spoil even the simplest of pleasures”. Her openness about her sexual endeavours in the second half of the book gives us the surprising pleasure of realising that we have been lucky enough to see Dora grow from a young and somewhat naive girl traveling the world, in to a beautiful, savvy and successful woman.

I admire the way that Carol has written Dora’s story, allowing us to experience life in Dora’s shoes, to see the world the way she does; like small pieces of candy we can devour each meme-sized personal philosophy she leaves us in her notes, at our own leisure.

Dora doesn’t come across as patronising at any stage; instead, her voice, which is as clear as spring water, is insightful and her notes of wisdom are told with full respect. I say this because *When Dreams are Calling* has been called a travel book, a self help book and even a comedy; however, Dora is aware of the position she has assumed and she invites us to encourage our own experiences: “The answers found in books are a bit like the daily horoscope. Some of them might be right for you, others only for your neighbour. Get your own from living your own reality.”

When Dreams are Calling will charm you from the first page until the last. It is an easy read and will force you to contemplate your own journey, your own travels, your own personal growth and achievements. Carol completes our experience by handing the wheel over and asks us this vital rhetorical question: “Now the question is what will you do when dreams are calling. Will you pick up?”

Andrew says

While reading the book *When Dreams are Calling*, I fell in love with Dora. Why did I love Dora?

1. She is beautiful in the book and in the trailer. But her true beauty stands in her personality.
2. She is bright and finds a smart reply to everyone and everything each and every time.
3. She is vibrant, cheerful and an incorrigible optimism. When life gives you lemon, make a lemonade is what she knows to do best.
4. She is terribly passionate in her love affairs, but I have to say quite demanding too in her expectations. But she can afford it, as any man would be fortunate with such a lady on his side. Too bad, Dora is still a fictional character...
5. She is not afraid to take drastic measures when dreams are calling and she does not let anyone and anything stand in her way. Her resilience and confidence are truly inspiring.
6. She is a practical woman, determined to find her own way without anyone’s help, but at heart she is a dreamer, a romantic, a true friend and a devoted lover.
7. She is one of a kind.

My only question for Carol Vorvain will be: Where can I find Dora?

Darius says

I bought this book after seeing the trailer on youtube. I am happy I did it because I loved it. It was like reading Coelho's teachings in the Alchemist while traveling around in Eat Pray Love.

Each chapter begins with a short humorous poem. They give the novel great character and many times I found myself reading some of them over and over again.

The descriptions of different places, such as Romania, Canada, Australia, Bali, Cuba, Amsterdam, Peru are not long and boring, but rather engaging, funny and entertaining. My favorite were Amsterdam and Bali, "the land of a thousand temples and a million of disasters" how the author calls it. I could have read more on any of them.

The quick wit and funny comments of Dora, the main character of the story, had me laughing all the way through. The author plays with the words, questions their meanings, so you might find yourself trying to make a mental note of one of her smart replies. I did this a few times.

Dora is never afraid to speak her mind, never afraid to take charge of her life, never afraid to change everything, from countries to lovers, until it feels right. As she admits: "[her] only constant is change."

At the end of each chapter there are short notes, which are the lessons that she learned from those events.

Without being preachy, they make you question some aspects of your life. I loved so many of them, but my favorite was: "Opportunities come, but rarely stay. We are lucky to have them, brave to take them, and wise to know which ones to pick."

Dora leaves everything behind and despite all the struggles, she keeps her spirit high. She is both a survivor and a dream chaser that will inspire you. No matter the event, she finds something positive in everything.

And this is a lesson in itself. In Dora's eyes everything is an opportunity to learn, to grow, to better understand herself and the others. She is a tough young woman whose profession is "happiness hunter."

The entire novel has so many wonderful dialogues and ideas that it would be difficult to grasp them all in one go. I will definitely read this book again.

In a time when good books are more and more rare, these kind of books and authors are a blessing. Bravo!

Henry Le Nav says

The description of this novel states that it is based on a true story. A look at the author's website confirmed that the story is very similar to the author's life. It reads very much like a memoir, but a very lively and entertaining memoir. Its pointless to wonder how much is true, but I found myself not reading a fictional character but a very real one.

I doubt that I am in the author's target demographic...I am a 65 year old guy that retired out of a factory. Other than a 4 year stint in the military and a collection of business trips I have traveled very little. Rather than taking life by the horns and controlling my destiny, I have always reacted to what life handed me. At this point in my life, my dreams are more on the order of avoiding yet another painful joint and staying the hell out of nursing home for as long as possible. So while Dora's adventures and travels inspired perhaps a little regret that I personally never threw caution to the wind and just lived life to the fullest, I am also old enough and wise enough to realize that there are the adventurous and then there are homebodies...I fall into the latter, as Dorothy said in *The Wizard of Oz* "there is no place like home."

That said I am also an old romantic. I have often used the term that I am in "love with love." The car rental

woman that takes Dora on a tour of Havana, says that of the people of Cuba. So what I really found interesting in this book was Dora's romantic life. While her descriptions of her pursuit of "lust" are not explicit, they were frank and to the point. She shares the erotic excitement of being in a relationship with the "Stallion" but ultimately rejects the notion of being in a relationship for "just sex." Dora finds that "that something is missing" and that relationships built solely on lust are operating on borrowed time. Dora wants something more and what she needs and finds is love. It was this part of Dora's story that I identified with and to the Doras of the world, I would say it works! I have been with my wife for 39 years and married to her for 37. That woman has taken me on adventures to realms that have no air service...there is no place like our bedroom. So along with my dreams of avoiding nursing homes, I have a dream that I am mid-trajectory in the adventure of life as husband and wife, but only taking off as soul-mates. There is no place like eternity.

So what does an old cranky introverted curmudgeon like me get out of reading a book about a perky, young, vivacious, intelligent woman with both wander and lust? Dora is full of life, lust and love. She is intelligent, but also wise well beyond her years. What Dora did for me was to strum my heartstrings for the daughter that I never had.

Amberr Meadows says

Not your average self-help book. Inspirational, funny, and a great novel for anyone who is jaded and has lost hope. Dreams can and do come true, and when they come calling and your chance is there, grab it and go! Loved this book.

Tanya Watt says

This book breathes life!

When Dreams are Calling is more than just a story, it's a book full of inspiration and self-help wisdom. Carol Vorvain is a woman full of life and it sure shows in her writing!

To me, Dora is like many women, but what makes her so different is her fear doesn't control her. She's willing to go that extra mile, and see what the world has to offer. Good or bad, Dora lives life to the fullest and I absolutely loved her! I too believe in following your dreams but, my fear seems to stop me. Reading this book made me rethink my fears and bring excitement to my senses as I gained courage to fulfill my own adventure.

This book is great for anyone, young and old, man or woman. You can't help but feel better after reading this book, its inspirational words and adventurous story will leave a smile on your face:)

Katy says

Pretty dull read about how to motivate yourself to take risks and do more with your life. The themes are good, I just really didn't like the writing style and story line.
