



Queen of the Road: The True Tale of 47 States, 22,000 Miles, 200 Shoes, 2 Cats, 1 Poodle, a Husband, and a Bus with a Will of Its Own

Doreen Orion

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A pampered Long Island princess hits the road in a converted bus with her wilderness-loving husband, travels the country for one year, and brings it all hilariously to life in this offbeat and romantic memoir.

Doreen and Tim are married psychiatrists with a twist: She's a self-proclaimed Long Island princess, grouchy couch potato, and shoe addict. He's an affable, though driven, outdoorsman. When Tim suggests "chucking it all" to travel cross-country in a converted bus, Doreen asks, "Why can't you be like a normal husband in a midlife crisis and have an affair or buy a Corvette?" But she soon shocks them both, agreeing to set forth with their sixty-pound dog, two querulous cats--and no agenda--in a 340-square-foot bus.

Queen of the Road is Doreen's offbeat and romantic tale about refusing to settle; about choosing the unconventional road with all the misadventures it brings (fire, flood, armed robbery, and finding themselves in a nudist RV park, to name just a few). The marvelous places they visit and delightful people they encounter have a life-changing effect on all the travelers, as Doreen grows to appreciate the simple life, Tim mellows, and even the pets pull together. Best of all, readers get to go along for the ride through forty-seven states in this often hilarious and always entertaining memoir, in which a boisterous marriage of polar opposites becomes stronger than ever.

Queen of the Road: The True Tale of 47 States, 22,000 Miles, 200 Shoes, 2 Cats, 1 Poodle, a Husband, and a Bus with a Will of Its Own Details

Date : Published June 3rd 2008 by Broadway Books (first published 2008)

ISBN : 9780767928533

Author : Doreen Orion

Format : Paperback 292 pages

Genre : Travel, Nonfiction, Autobiography, Memoir, Humor, Biography



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From Reader Review Queen of the Road: The True Tale of 47 States, 22,000 Miles, 200 Shoes, 2 Cats, 1 Poodle, a Husband, and a Bus with a Will of Its Own for online ebook

Heather says

Bought this at the airport. It was boring and the protagonist was kind of a whiny pain in the ass. Don't read it.

Mandy says

This was my least favorite book I have read in a long time. In fact, I might even use the "H" word to describe my feelings for it. It's honestly the first book I didn't finish in my lifetime.

In no particular order here are the reasons I h-worded this book:

- the protagonist was not likeable, not well-developed, and her epiphany came way too late in the book--in fact the last 10 pages. Calling her husband "project nerd" was not funny, the protagonist just seemed like a spoiled brat. I am not saying the protagonist is a bad person, I am just saying there is NO way someone is this superficially developed in real life
- the writing style was tell, tell tell. There was nothing left to the imagination and it made me very bored
- the descriptions of the scenery were boring and antiquated
- it was difficult to read about a couple who spent all this money on granite countertops for a bus to tour around in while our country is in the crapper. If the characters were better developed, this could have been funny/ironic.
- the historical background of the sites the characters visited were completely out of place, not fluid at all with the rest of her story.
- I am not sure why the author had to keep hitting the reader over the head with the fact that she and her husband are psychiatrists. a) la-dee-dah! b) if that is important information for a story you are about to tell, the reader is not an idiot and will remember this. You don't have to keep mentioning it every two pages.

I was hoping this book would be a nice summer romp, but really it was just not great. I don't mean like Nora Roberts bad, but bad.

The fact that some people found this book laugh out loud funny makes me feel really bad for humankind and the future of our existence.

The saving grace of this book was the drink recipe at the beginning of each chapter. Those were nice. Different strokes for different folks, but this was not my cup of whiskey infused tea.

Sarah says

I absolutely loved this book! Funny, educational, and heartwarming. I'd love to be able to take the same kind of trip as Doreen and Tim.

Cindy says

I loved it. This might be because I am also a princess [west coast variety, no shoe fetish] who is the unhappy spouse of a man who likes camping. When we returned from our latest trip I was asked how it had gone and my answer was "Dirt, bugs, and public restrooms - what's not to love?" Dear hubby winced...

This is the type of book you keep having the urge to read aloud - if only to explain the giggling.

carol. says

I enjoyed Queen of the road, but entered into it expecting a light read. Like other reviewers, I found Doreen only moderately interesting at the start, but the saga of embarking on a year-long bus adventure kept me reading. The constant "Prada this, Richard Tyler that," failed to make a spark with the anti-label consumer, but I definitely got the message that Doreen is/was materialistic. Someone who is familiar with the "Sex and The City" lifestyle will most likely find more appreciation for her tastes and references. Her humor is moderately self-deprecating, with tinges of pride at being very good at being a "Princess," but what I found myself wondering is why such a fabulous husband is getting out of a relationship with her, with her frequent dramatic screaming and inability to cope with the outdoors, birds, buses, insects, cooking, laundry, etc., along with frequent drinking as a coping skill. I found it interesting that someone who describes herself as 'house-bound' is bent on purchasing designer handbags and shoes--to what end, I wonder? But that aspect of her acquisitive tendencies is not touched on. She did crack me up with her description of her husband's handyman alter ego as "Project Nerd," and it became a continuing laugh through the book. I appreciated her appreciation and love of her poodle and two cats. However, as Shannon (another reviewer) said, "By the end, she arcs into a character you can understand, and she's come to understand herself." By the time she tries out a nudist RV park with her husband, it's become clear that Doreen has undergone a shift in world-view. As a health professional, I feel like a number of the lessons Doreen finally said learned were always available to her, but it took traveling in a bus to open her up to more thoughtful viewpoints. The messages were brief, but worthwhile lessons in quality time, the search for meaning, and values in a hectic world.

Christine Witkowski says

A hilarious book I rescued from the dumpster this summer at the library (where some of the donated books get recycled when they don't meet the guidelines for the annual book sale). The funny thing about this is that it caught my eye because it was about a couple who toured the US in their RV, visiting nearly all of the states. Being on a 50-states quest ourselves, I was intrigued. Shortly thereafter at the end of August we traveled to the Dakotas (states 36 and 37) where we met a retired couple in Custer State Park who told us about their travels volunteering in parks and living in their RV. Al and I agreed that this would be a fantastic life for us, but what we didn't know at the time was that many people do it before they retire - working seasonal or remote jobs while living several months at a time in one place before moving on to the next destination. The more I learned the more excited I became! And then I remember this book, and gobbled it up. This couple left their jobs to spend a year traveling the country as tourists, not working, but when they returned home they missed the RV life and sold their house to return to the road. The coincidence of finding this book just before meeting Cal & Marilyn in South Dakota has to be a sign...

Jen says

Funny, hilarious! I think I almost wet my pants a couple of times... This was the most fun I've had reading a book in a long time!!! I get the distinct feeling that this is as close as I want to get to a life on the road but will gladly live it through Ms. Orion! :)

amanda says

A quick travelogue read. The author changes her style and tone from pampered princess to country lovin' RV-er as she learns life isn't all about shopping and reality TV, and that scenic hikes aren't death marches.

(I needed something light after finishing Tom Friedman's "The World is Flat")

Salena says

Did not enjoy this book AT ALL. For a highly educated doctor, I expected the writing to be of better quality.

It was extremely disappointing considering I have an interest in not only travel books, but recently, also in memoirs. Since I am on the road over 300 days of the year myself, driving an 18-wheeler with my boyfriend and having traveled the United States and Canada extensively, I did not find the descriptions of any of the places she had been enticing enough to make me want to visit; and I've BEEN to many of the places she mentioned.

I think the idea of two shrinks on a bus for a year *could* have been interesting, but the writing did not reflect as humorously as it could have. I actually found it painful to get through the entire thing.

I wanted to like it, really I did, but I thought it to depict a year of enduring what seemed like a jail sentence in a bus depicted in over 300 pages of whining.

And I seriously contemplated burning the book before I finished it if she used the word "indomitable" ONE MORE TIME.

Annette says

I was waiting in line at my local bookstore when I spied a pile of books entitled "Queen of the Road". Being an avid traveler and lover of memoirs, I picked one up. I read the first 2 pages and forgot why I wanted the book I held in my other hand. I was hooked...laughing out loud in the check out counter line! "Queen of the Road" by Doreen Orion is a hysterically funny laugh out loud as well as thoughtful and touching memoir about a mid-40ish woman who was convinced by her much loved husband to get in a customPrevost bus for a years adventure around the United States (a huge step for a self-proclaimed "bus phobic" woman). Thus she tries to figure out how to fit just 1/2 of her HUGE collection of shoes, 2 cats and a dog, satellite internet

connection, a TV (which they then seldom watched) and other "necessities" of her pre-bus life into the world's skinniest apartment on wheels. Their adventures (both travel and personal) and their personal discoveries into what really matters to them are heart warming and thought provoking. And in the end, it is a love story of a couple learning about themselves, each other and the world around them on the Great American Roadtrip. Oh, and by the way...the "Queen" makes killer martinis...recipes included!

This is my book of the summer...maybe the whole year!

Naomi says

I couldn't finish this one because I just couldn't get into it. The writer's husband, a lover of nature, convinces Doreen, a self-proclaimed princess, to spend a year in an RV. I read about half of it and enjoyed that much, but I felt the writer was rambling without much point.

Lorie says

This book was very entertaining and I would highly recommend it. Plenty of adventures to keep you laughing.

After reading this book, I want to buy a bus of my own and head out on the road to visit many of my good friends throughout the country!

John says

This is an entertaining tale of two shrinks and a bus. I went to visit them - the shrinks and the bus - in Boulder, Colorado. I saw the bus in its lair. I saw the author on the loose, and her husband practicing medicine in a converted Denver warehouse.

I even went in an automobile with them.

There is a high likelihood you will find this story enthralling and amusing, and you will learn to mix exotic drinks, and you will gain valuable insight into the kind of person who may be driving the bus behind you on the highway tomorrow.

JoAnn/QuAppelle says

I started out really liking this book and the author's humor, but it quickly grew tiresome. I think it would have been much more enjoyable from the husband's point of view because Doreen was just so obnoxious. She was so negative, manipulative, and whiny before and during the trip - what a spoiled brat! I found the constant use of - or reference to - her title of "princess" (self-proclaimed) to be annoying. It ceased being cute

after the 50th time! She tried way too hard to be funny and often her attempts at humor just fell flat.

I also thought the book was poorly written. The narrative "flow" was just not there, and I disliked how disjointed and scattered the story was.

It got to the point that I was not even enjoying the descriptions of the places they visited, and this is something I usually like to read. I was surprised to see how many good reviews it got.

Dhara Mehta says

The Queen of the Road by Doreen Orion is an intensely entertaining love story of couple journey across 47 states in a bus. Doreen is 'princess' who has not a care in the world except her nail polish, shoes, and handbags. Her husband, Tim, is and outdoorsy, do-it-your self dedicated psychiatrist. The odd couple manage to get along throughout the year without world war three erupting. Doreen at the end of the book appreciates her priceless husband (even more she did before) and realizes the mall is not the Mecca of humanity. Being, an outdoorsy person, I enjoyed all the sights and sounds of American. It is amazing to know that in the world's most industrial county, the wilderness is still present. I empathize with Doreen, there is no way I could spend so much time in a bus perhaps a train. I abhor gas guzzling vehicles. Tim is the quintessential husband. I know quite a few women who would journey to the end of the world to find TIM. The real question is what Tim admires about Doreen! Three stars for a fun read...
