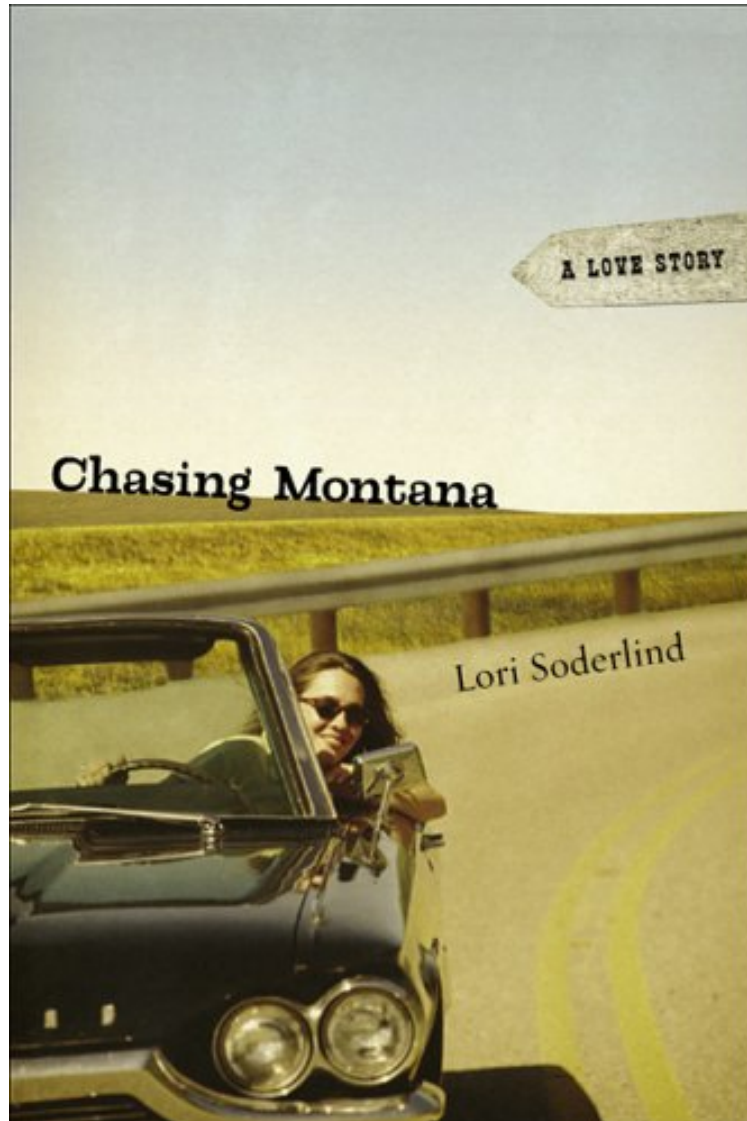


(Download pdf) Chasing Montana: A Love Story

Chasing Montana: A Love Story

Lori Soderlind

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Lori Soderlind : Chasing Montana: A Love Story before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Chasing Montana: A Love Story:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Honest, emotional memoirBy NancyI was amazed by the frank insights into herself this author shared on every page of this great read. Following the story of how she explores her past while finding her future, I was amazed at the total lack of rationalization so many memoirs seem to be built on; Soderlind tells a completely honest story that captures both the terror and possibilities of life in your early twenties.

Beautifully written, well paced, and a book that I will keep thinking about for a long time. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I kept waiting...By ChazzycatMaybe my expectations were off. A woman in my writers group recommended this to me and I felt a little let down. I was so excited because I really respect her taste so perhaps I had unrealistic expectations. I do think she writes very well, I could imagine everything she wrote; however, I felt it moved too slowly. 7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. For the chasers among usBy Brenda GreeneI couldn't put this book down. Anyone who has longed for an object of desire -- whether it's another person, a hand-carved guitar or a wilderness that is pure and uncomplicated -- will love this book. Soderlind manages to turn upside down all our preconceived notions about love, the wild west (there were bankers there?), the counterculture that has been asleep for the last 30 years and even the virtuous newsroom. Chasing Montana is funny (I never knew an elbow could wreak such panic) while looking deeply into our shared but excruciating aloneness. A great read.

Lori, the heroine of this rousing narrative, is attempting to flee the hectic East Coast for a better life in the West. She is a child of the Seventies who feels misled by the rebellious "boomer" generation and disappointed with life in 1980s New Jersey. Spurred by the tale of her pioneering grandparents, who immigrated to Montana, and following her friend Madeleine, who has all the answers, Lori quits her job, loosens her ties, and sets off into a wild frontier. Lori's story is one of love for people and for places that are more mythic than real. Her pursuit is as painfully familiar as it is impossible: she seeks meaning in life while working dead-end jobs, falls in love with uninterested partners, and plans a future that seems doomed from the start. Somehow, though, she persists and ultimately finds her place as a twenty-first-century pioneer.

From BooklistAs debut memoirs supplant debut novels, the themes of much first fiction--loss of illusions, painful early loves, coming-of-age via self-examination--become those of nonfiction. Cast them in the form of the "road story," and you may double their appeal. Such is the case with Soderlind's straightforward, reader-friendly book. Twenty-four in 1988, she left an \$18,000 reporting job in New Jersey for a pilgrimage to Montana and the mythic pioneer experience of her grandparents. After three days of driving with photographer, soul sister, and onetime cult member Madeline, whom she idolized, she felt herself "an astronaut, hurtling through [the] space observed through the glass," journeying to "be free as wild horses" and to "live among the buffalo." But after Madeline's return to New Jersey, Soderlind came to feel abandoned and imagined ax murderers at her deserted campsite. She went back to her old job and pals. Rejected by Madeline, she was lonely, until one day . . . This tale of love's illusions lost and found should win fans, both lesbian and straight. Whitney ScottCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "An understated and moving memoir that feels like a road trip with a really good friend. But more than that, it's a subtle social commentary, a travel story, a coming out, and an epitaph for the ghost towns of the West. Chasing Montana will be a new road favorite for meandering women across the land."Mack Friedman, author of *Setting the Lawn on Fire*Richard Labonte, *Q Syndicate Book Marks*"[C]rystalline writing, and a saucy sense of self, both help Chasing Montana stand out on the bookshelf. Soderlind's refreshing remembrance of a road trip is set a couple of decades ago, when two newspaper gals from New Jersey, yearning to escape the daily grind of spiritually deadening jobs, set out for Montana.... Narratives about chasing the meaning of life down a lonesome highway are too often literary cliches. This quiet story breathes fresh air into a stale genre."About the AuthorLori Soderlind worked for fifteen years at a variety of newspapers and magazines before becoming a journalism professor at Norwalk Community College in Norwalk, Connecticut. She lives in New York City and Saratoga Springs, New York. This is her first book.