



The Widows' Adventures

Charles Dickinson

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Two widows take to the road across America in this ambitious novel by Charles Dickinson. Helene, who is blind, does the driving. Her sister, Ina, shows the way, and together they break free into the light they feared had gone out of their lives. They cross a landscape whose dangers are secondary to the perilous memories and secrets they share. Their goal-Los Angeles, home to Ina's children-shimmers like a mirage on the horizon of their plans. Charles Dickinson has invested these two women with a remarkable spirit: In a vast and intricate weaving of truth and memory he has created two unforgettable sisters with the courage, the wit, and the tenacity to embark upon a journey that redefines for themselves and their families the kind of women they will be for the rest of their lives.

The Widows' Adventures Details

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Author : Charles Dickinson

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Lynda says

Parts of this book made me laugh to myself and other parts made me really think about who knows what the future may bring. This book was an easy ride/read with a blind woman at the wheel.

Amanda Bynum says

The Widows' Adventures by Charles Dickinson (yes, that's his real name) is one of the best books you've never heard of. Here's a quick synopsis:

"Widows Ina and Helene, sisters from Chicago, set off on a drive to Los Angeles. There's one problem: Only Helene can drive, and she's blind. Beer-swigging Ina acts as her eyes. On back roads in the dead of night they travel across an America they never knew."

But there's a lot more to it than that. Strained familial relationships, violence, murder, adultery, lots of laughs, a few tears, lesbians, and a really compelling story. Helene and Ina are full, three-dimensional characters, and Dickinson's got a way with words - the language is very accessible, but has a few poetic moments thrown in. You can't help but like this one.

Dickinson's a newspaperman from Chicago, with a few books and short stories under his belt. He's also the dad of one of my co-workers. True story.

The Widows' Adventures - A-

Tracey says

I LOVED this book. It's probably been 15 years since I read it. The part about the two sisters driving across country just cracked me up! Kinda reminded me of my mom & Aunt Clarky. I loaned the book to someone and I realized today that I never got it back. I want to read it again, so will have to buy it for myself again.

Calista says

I was fairly skeptical about this book. I've owned it for probably eight years and never felt particularly drawn to it. The first half of the book is a tad slow, but I soon became drawn into the story of two sisters whose relationship is both complex and striking. I really enjoyed the nonchalance with which each plot point was presented. A thoroughly enjoyable read.

Anne says

I loved this book! It's the story of two elderly sisters, both widows, who decide to drive across the country to

Los Angeles. The problem is that one sister can't drive and the other is blind, but with beer-drinking alcoholic Ina giving directions and blind Helene at the wheel, they set off on an adventure.

The dialogue between the sisters is hilarious and real, and the story itself veers between laugh-out-loud and sad hidden histories. The relationship between the sisters is complex, and so is each of their relationships with their adult children. I was expecting a fun, somewhat silly story, but there is actually considerable depth in this and some great writing.

This is truly a hidden gem of a book.

Kris says

LOVED IT! I don't often laugh out loud when I read, but I did throughout this book. Two widowed sisters decide they won't take the violence of their Chicago neighborhood any longer and decide to drive to California. One sister can drive but she's blind, and the other can't drive and loves to drink. It's a hoot from beginning to end.

Lea Ann says

This book is so much more than the escapades of two widows crossing this vast country at twelve miles an hour. This book is about family, forgiveness, and change - the changes one makes and the changes out of one's control. Lovely story, endearing characters, a few laughs, a few tears, and more than a few surprises.

Deb says

I learned the basic premise of this book around twenty years ago and wanted to read it. It wasn't until recently that I did a search and figured out the title and author. At first, I was thrilled that the book was meeting my expectations. Unfortunately, that didn't last. I expected more humor than the book delivered. On the other hand, I was very touched by the relationship of the sisters and somewhat interested in the story of their lives. My interest waned beyond the initial idea of their cross-country drive. It is all okay and very well-written mainstream fiction. It's just not my preference.

Heather says

Interesting enough for an airplane ride, took a while to get going. A bit dated in some attitudes re: young people and also homosexuality.

Nanci says

A treat from start to finish.

Talya Boerner says

My sister-in-law told me about this book and loaned me her copy. Thank you, Paula! If *Thelma & Louise* met *The Bucket List* you'd have this witty tale. Imagine two elderly sisters driving from Chicago to Los Angeles. One is blind. The other has never driven in her life. The blind sister drives while the other navigates. They take the back roads during the wee hours. Yes, it's absurd and hilarious. Would make an entertaining movie.

This book made me: think about all the fabulous books written years and years ago still waiting to be discovered. (This book was published in 1989.)

Favorite line: "If I'm driving and you're drunk, does that make me a drunken driver?"

Storjia says

This is on my best reads list. Mr. Dickinson is on my favorite authors list. What a terrific idea for an adventure. I loved the ladies. Wish I could have the rights to this book!

Kathryn says

Believable characters.

Jan Adams says

I read this book probably 20 years ago and liked it a lot. BUT, as I have gotten older and my relationships with my sisters is still one of my life's greatest blessing I wanted to reread. It took a while to remember the name of the book and then find it again. But, I must say it was even better reading in my sixties than it was in my fourties.

I am looking forward to passing off to my sisters and the discussing who will be the blind driver and who will be drinking in the passenger seat!

Louis says

The premise of this book sounded like great fun: two elderly sisters set out alone to visit family in California. This book did not do much with that premise, instead telling a story that drags and barely goes anywhere. Too bad, it could have been much more fun.
