



I Ran Into Some Trouble

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Peggy Caserta, founder of the famous Haight-Ashbury hippie boutique Mnasidika, and lover and girlfriend of Janis Joplin, was a Louisiana homecoming queen turned airsick stewardess who eventually landed in 1960s San Francisco and set up shop. Her store was a hang-out for The Grateful Dead and Big Brother and the Holding Company; it was where Wes Wilson's posters hung and Bill Graham sold concert tickets and Owsley's LSD was enjoyed.

Caserta's world of psychedelic peace, love, LSD, and rock kaleidoscoped into bereavement, heroin addiction, prison, and desperation. She was hated, betrayed, and self-exiled, and after many, many years has recovered, returning home to the bayou to care for her mother with dementia.

Now Caserta is giving a new generation an inside-look into a revolution—both countercultural and personal—in her new memoir. It's the celebration of a transitional time in history, and an attempt at redemption.

I Ran Into Some Trouble Details

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Celia Lynch Turner says

My years, the 60's.

I can relate to so much of this book that it's quite disturbing. I was a child of the 60's. The music, hippies, wearing flowers in my hair. It's when I look back and am reminded of the crazy lifestyle we had that I can appreciate it was an amazing time to be young. Reading of the dark side of what Peggy endured though really freaks me out. I guess only thing that saved me was that I didn't smoke and I was too young to drink. What an interesting fucked up book. I even got to see New Orleans just after Hurricane Katrina and took many bus trips to see the devastation. I sure would have liked to meet the Author.

Dennis Koers says

Talk about self abuse...

Interesting take on the addiction life. How she managed to survive is beyond my level of comprehension . I lived through the 60s but in a military uniform. I could not relate to her experiences.

Traci Styner says

Wow, what a life. I gobbled up this book.

While Peggy Caserta is best known for her life in the 60s Haight-Ashbury scene and her relationship with Janis Joplin, I found that the story really grabbed me after that period. Peggy's struggles with addiction and her relationship with her parents come to life in this often-humorous and straightforward telling of her life.

Margie says

What a story and what a life! The author has definitely had the highest highs (literally and figuratively) and the lowest of lows. Near death several times, living on the edge, and also living the good life and experiencing the birth of Haight-Ashbury. I enjoyed reading this memoir and learning about her time with Janis Joplin, as well as others, and starting her business, Mnasidika.

Rusty says

Caserta's been through addiction and prison and Hurricane Katrina, but the lack of important detail where it's needed and too much where it's not, along with odd, unexplained jumps in the narrative and graceless writing create a bore of a read. Survival skills don't necessarily equal a successful memoir.

laura? says

Liked it a bunch! At times it read like fiction because wow... she's done some stuff. Never really listened to Janis Joplin's music, so there was no attraction for me there, but it was a well told narrative of a wild, interesting, and sometimes very sad, life.

Harvey Soon says

Trials and Tribulations of an Exceptional Woman

Peggy Caserta tells her life story that would graphiically look like a roller coaster in an earthquake. "Some trouble" as a title takes understatement to a new level. She was at the forefront of a generational transformation: The Age of Aquarius, flower power, the hippie movement, drugs, sex, rock and roll. Yet her greatest achievement just might be that she eventually kicked her addiction to heroin. A survivor of the first order.

I'm glad she was able to tell story.

Yara says

Thought I wouldn't be able to get through it being quite different to what I'm used to, but this book ended up being a great read. What a life the author lead! I had previously never been able to understand addicts and their thought process, but reading about her substance use gave me valuable insight into how tough & defeating addiction truly is. Loved reading about the hippies & Haight-Ashbury as well.

Scot says

This is an unevenly written memoir that would have benefitted from a bit more editing and better proofreading, particularly in the opening and closing sections of the book. Caserta has lived a fascinating life with some incredible experiences, and hearing her firsthand accounts of the beginning of the counterculture in Haight Ashbury is magical delight, while the discussion of heroin addiction, jail time, and how easily a strung out junkie might be raped, repeatedly, then ignored is direct, powerful, and memorable. There is a range here: assisting a prison breakout in Mexico, being Janis Joplin's lover & guest at Woodstock, inventing bellbottoms, and even surviving Hurricane Katrina with her elderly mother and dogs, amid the devastation of southern Mississippi. She has been a millionaire living a high life, she has been a junkie in the dirty street begging for her next fix—Peggy has seen it all, and shares some life lessons, some poignant moments, and some humorous recollections.

She also says her earlier memoir was taken over by the ghost writers who misrepresented much, including her tone and intent. This time around she is older and wiser and more in charge, she maintains. Her new theory on the cause of Joplin's death which she introduces here has merit, given her presence on the scene so early, her attention to detail, and her deep knowledge of the behavior and practice of Janis in everyday life at

that point.

Tina Cole says

You can always find your way back

Peggy's life is fascinating. I laughed at some parts, cried at others, but, in all of the book U just felt as if we were sitting down having a 'girl talk'. I am also from the South (North Carolina) and can completely identify with the descriptions of the culture and what it's like to live there. Her description of the feel of Southern humidity is spot on. I also am a bit of a black sheep with the nickname 'Southern Belle from Hell' which was bestowed upon me lovingly by a dear friend. I recommend this book for many reasons ~ the history of Haight Ashbury, history of her clothing stores, Peggy's life in general, but, most of all - just Peggy. She's a survivor and this is an inspiration for all those who take the wrong turns and get lost. You can find your way back. Thanks, Peggy, for reminding me of this!

Laura says

This is a good book and a quick read. It was a bit annoying how the author was clearly trying to make herself out to be a bit more well liked than she probably was. Some of the information was not the same information that she gave in interviews in her later years. Her conversations were clearly fictional being that there is no way she could remember what she said during these events. Also, I have read in the police reports and autopsy that Janis was wearing a night shirt/gown when she died. No shoes were ever mentioned. I'm sure she did the best she could with the details while also attempting to make herself out to be a well loved and good person, which is contradictory to every interview which she has been mentioned. I think if I hadn't seen and read so much about Janis before this book, it would have been more believable.

Overall though, the book is good. I actually liked the after Janis portion of the book better. If you can look over the bragging about how successful she was and that she was basically the first person to be a true flower child hippy and what a saint she was to allegedly help people and stay away from Janis while she was attempting to stay sober because she was such a good person, it really is a good read.

Alison says

Such an interesting and sad life. She grew up in Covington Louisiana where I raised my children. I was there during Hurricane Katrina. She was nearby outside of Slidell. The next Spring she had appendicitis as I did. Fortunately I caught mine in time. It was just weird coincidence all around. But her book rings true even though I wasn't part of the movement. The addiction was so unfortunate but so part of the culture and Vietnam era

Constanza says

The first time I heard of Peggy Caserta was on a Janis Joplin documentary. Of all the people close to Janis, it was Peggy who held my interest the most. My interest in her grew when I read an interview where Courtney Love - Kurt Cobain's widow - said that "Going Down With Janis" was the biography she wanted to be

written about her.

So when I read she was releasing a new memoir, I instantly knew it was a must-read. You don't even have to be a fan of Janis - or the counterculture- to enjoy this book. You just need to feel like reading a fascinating book. This the most entertaining one I have read so far this year. I have always had respect for Ms. Caserta but this book made me respect her even more. She's a survivor, she really is. She has gone through so much during her life that it is amazing the fact she's still alive, though the chapters about the darkest phase of her addiction were hard to read. I was feeling anguished, but I really enjoyed the book. There's no doubts I'll read it again - and again.

I'm 18 y/o and feeling nostalgic for an era I never got to live! (and also left me waiting for a Janis biopic with Peggy on it)

Definitely a must-have!

Mike MacDonald says

This was how it happened

No bullshit. Looking back, it's hard to believe you could be having lunch in Indiana and hitchhiking to New Orleans, Miami, Churchill Downs by 2:00 that afternoon. Somebody packing an ounce, another with a few hits of blotter, change of underwear and go. This book tells the amazing freedom and spontaneity we were so lucky to have. Thanks Peggy.

Dale says

Captivating

I'm so happy Peggy Caserta wrote this book... recounting the decades and characters they were peopled by - the truth more entertaining than any fiction- from her launch into adult life out of a much loved but ordinary childhood in the south of the U.S. into the 1960's beginnings of hippie culture in San Francisco, wild times from the 1970's of California that lasted decades, to its poignant culmination after the last of several nailbiting interludes... for our enjoyment, the roller coaster ride of her life, the bright and heady times, the downs and almost but not quite ever outs. Bravo.
