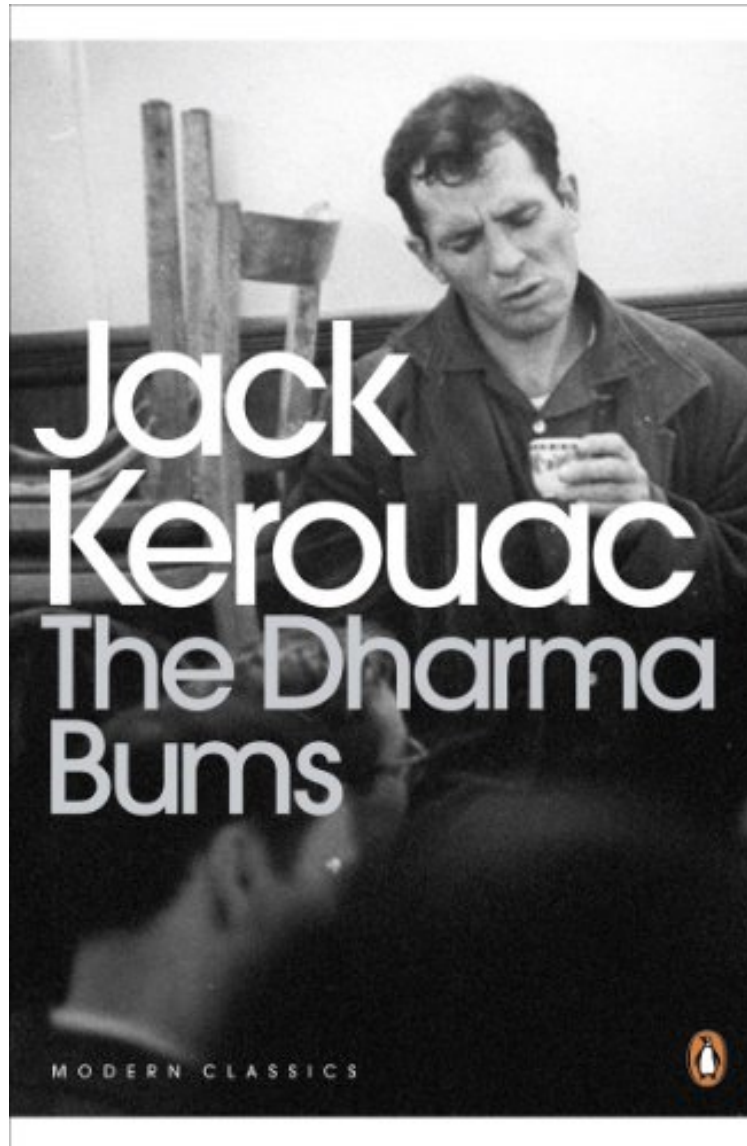


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Von Jack Kerouac

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Von Jack Kerouac : The Dharma Bums (Penguin Modern Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Dharma Bums (Penguin Modern Classics):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. "People pray and recite Om Mani Pahdme Hum."Von expressJack Kerouac (1922-1969) would not achieve fame until the late 1950s, when a wave of interest in the Beat Movement installed him as "King of the Beats", a title, he was very uncomfortable with. Nevertheless, he rode the epic wave that started in the 1940s metropolis on the Hudson River and

its epicenter Columbia. It was overwhelmed with Eastern religions, most notably Zen Buddhism and grew in the 1950s through interaction in San Francisco, carrying the counterculture's growing fascination to California. It is best described in Kerouac's own definition how the Beat Movement was a vision "of a generation of crazy, illuminated hipsters suddenly rising and roaming America, serious, bumming and hitchhiking everywhere, ragged, beatific, beautiful in an ugly graceful new way - a vision gleaned from the way we had heard the word 'beat' spoken on streetcorners on Times Square and in the Village, in other cities in the downtown city night of postwar America... We'd stay up 24 hours drinking cup after cup of black coffee, playing record after record of Lester Young, Dexter Gordon, Willie Jackson, Lennie Tristano and all the rest, talking madly about that holy new feeling out there in the streets." Dharma Bums was published in 1958, just about one year after the trail-blazing *On the Road*, Kerouac's quasi-autobiographical tale, had put the Beat movement on the literary map. Dharma Bums is a comparable novel but weighs in with more substance on truth or "dharma." The protagonists are two ebullient young men - the narrator Ray Smith, based on Kerouac, and Japhy Ryder, based on the poet and essayist Gary Snyder - are engaged in a passionate search for the elusive enlightenment through dharma - a search that involves them, together or separately, in a series of free-wheeling explorations, both sacred and profane. Their major adventure is the pursuit of the Zen way, "which takes them climbing into the high Sierras to seek the experience of solitude" Kerouac's account of the climb is a spectacular foray into nature writing and bull's eye prophecy - a forecast of the 1960s cultural revolution: "millions of young Americans wandering around...giving visions of eternal freedom to everybody..." The role he saw for himself as a dharma bum was derived from the Diamond Sutra, which held that "Great Being of Enlightenment, in teaching the Verity to others, should first free themselves from all exquisite of disgusting tastes." An experience that was hard to lecture in the pagan netherlands of San Francisco's Bohemia with its grandiose wine-drinking carnival, poetry jam sessions, experiments in Yab-Yum, and similar non-ascetic pastimes. But through it all the two young men remain devoted to their search as Truth Bums, and when we finally take leave of them, each has caught sight of his goal and is on the road to it. Though Kerouac himself viewed Dharma Bums as hackwork, yet without reverting to traditional fictional technique, he succeeded in molding and shaping his material into a dramatic and coherent narrative that conveyed his themes with power and precision, yet retained his trademark stream of consciousness and jazzy, hopped-up rhythm. Those who regard Kerouac's style outdated should take into account that the New York Times wrote as late as 1998, they should not be surprised that he is once again in vogue among young readers. Kerouac's gallery of Beat prototypes, also included contemporary actors like Montgomery Clift, or Marlon Brando, also hard-boiled private eye types like Humphrey Bogart had an honored place, as did Peter Lorre.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. bums Von Valentin Bning A witty, moving philosophical novel, Jack Kerouac's *The Dharma Bums* is a journey of self-discovery through the lens of Zen Buddhist thought. This Penguin Modern Classics edition includes an introduction by Ann Douglas.

2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. CLIMB THE MOUNTAIN! Von Paul I have been to California and the Sierra Nevada Mountains, but after reading this thought provoking novel I realized I have never been there. Before I was just going through the motions of a tourist. Now when I go back (hopefully this Summer) I am really going to experience the beauty of the mountains and nature. This novel stirred up some very powerful emotions inside of me such as living life how I want to live it, not how everybody else wants me to live it (Up to this point in my life I am not sure I have been doing that). If it was not currently Winter I would be heading toward the American West with my rucksack, ready to climb the mountain. Read this novel I guarantee you it will be a rewarding experience.

Kurzbeschreibung THE DHARMA BUMS appeared just one year after the author's explosive *ON THE ROAD* had put the Beat Generation on the literary map and Kerouac on the best-seller list. The same expansiveness, humour and contagious zest for life that sparked the earlier novels sparks this one too, but through a more cohesive story. The books follow two young men engaged in a passionate search for dharma or truth. Their major adventure is the pursuit of the Zen way, which takes them climbing into the high sierras to seek the lesson of solitude. With an Introduction by Kerouac expert, Ann Douglas.

de One of the best and most popular of Kerouac's autobiographical novels, *The Dharma Bums* is based on experiences the writer had during the mid-1950s while living in California, after he'd become interested in Buddhism's spiritual mode of understanding. One of the book's main characters, Japhy Ryder, is based on the real poet Gary Snyder, who was a close friend and whose interest in Buddhism influenced Kerouac. This book is a must-read for any serious Kerouac fan.

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