



America the Beautiful: A Novel

By Moon Unit Zappa

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America the Beautiful: A Novel By Moon Unit Zappa

America Throne is living the good life in L.A. Her career is sprouting, and she is in love -- with Jasper Husch, a sexy-sultry artist from San Fran. But just as soon as they've realized domestic bliss, Jasper has a change of heart, and America falters on the slippery slope of hope: hoping that he will come back, hoping that new sex will erase all evidence of him, and hoping that in nurturing a truce with her dead father she will make peace with all men.

America's trip from self-destruction to wholeness is a romp on the wilder shores of the West Coast. From a dodgy therapist to a silent retreat, America Throne's "aha" moment culminates with, "While we are all busy swimming upstream, the universe is conspiring to take us to something better."

In *America the Beautiful*, Moon Zappa has taken the broken-heart story and given it a twist all her own through the emotional honesty and edginess of America Throne. Hailed as "brilliant" (*Sunday Telegraph Magazine*), *America the Beautiful* is the debut of an unforgettable and unfaltering new voice.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Skeptics, prepare for a surprise: this is an energetic and mostly entertaining debut, a novel only Moon Unit Zappa could have written. The novel concerns one America Throne, the opinionated daughter of famous avant-garde artist Boris Throne: she's funny, she's familiar with self-pity, she's looking for love and she's dealing with "how difficult it is to be hippie royalty AND try to find your own identity in the shadow of a certifiable self-made 'genius.' " For those who haven't heard of Zappa's father, Frank, the legendary composer and front man of the Mothers of Invention, it's pointless to attempt to explain him here. But the biographical parallels are obvious enough that it's unclear whether Zappa really wants readers to believe America is a fictional character. The novel reads like an obsessive, bipolar journal of disaster and heartache: America is dumped by her artist boyfriend, Jasper, which launches her on a hell-bent roller-coaster ride of self-loathing and self-discovery. Her aggrandized notion of her own hardships is often patently hilarious: "we drove past a mural of anguished faces and raised fists... Rosa Parks, Malcolm X, Che Guevara, Gandhi, and that guy with all the grapes. They knew what I was talking about." It's hard not to enjoy America's attitude and observational powers, but the novel is also exasperatingly self-indulgent: song lyrics open every chapter, and too often they're inexcusably facile choices like " 'Why?' Annie Lennox" or "Hooray for Hollywood" Author Unknown" (that would be Johnny Mercer, by the way). Although the novel lacks any real perspective on America's repeated falls from grace, her giddy highs and crushing lows make for a refreshingly honest and eye-opening read. Agent, Jimmy Vines. (Sept.) Forecast: This title is sure to catch the eye of its young, female target market few novels, after all, score blurbs from Alanis Morissette and Janeane Garofalo.

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From Library Journal

Debut novelist Zappa takes as her palette a plot so banal that from someone less sensitive, talented, and funny this could have been a real snore. America Throne, 29, daughter of genius writer and painter Boris and adoring paramour of genius painter Jasper, is abruptly dumped. America's lovelorn travails may resemble those of Helen Fielding's and Melissa Bank's heroines, but she is an original. Her mother, brother, best friend, and therapist convincingly come alive for the reader, as do her memories of her father and his infidelities, semi-pornographic art, absences, and unqualified love for her. And, perhaps most importantly, when she behaves like a fool she knows it. As she says to her therapist, "I hate my life because my boyfriend dumped me and I have no real career and my best friend wants me to stay single forever and my mother drives me nuts and my brother's life is perfect.-I have fantasies of murdering my dog when she makes a certain annoying licking sound." Often hilarious, suffused with pop culture, and ultimately affirming, this is for all collections where quirky new voices are appreciated. [The author is the daughter of the late rock musician Frank Zappa. Ed.] Judith Kicinski, Sarah Lawrence Coll., Bronxville, N.

- Judith Kicinski, Sarah Lawrence Coll., Bronxville, NY

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Review

Janeane Garofalo I couldn't put this emotional, hilarious, painfully honest novel down....I laughed my ass off. I loved this book.

Alanis Morissette The courage, unapologetic honesty, egolessness, and humor of *America the Beautiful*

made me smile from ear to ear....Truly inspiring!

Diane Leslie author of *Fleur De Leigh's Life of Crime* A terrific writer, Moon Unit Zappa kept me laughing and rooting for Ms. America to the last page.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Curtis Salas:

Book is written, printed, or outlined for everything. You can realize everything you want by a guide. Book has a different type. As you may know that book is important issue to bring us around the world. Close to that you can your reading expertise was fluently. A book America the Beautiful: A Novel will make you to always be smarter. You can feel more confidence if you can know about everything. But some of you think this open or reading the book make you bored. It is not make you fun. Why they may be thought like that? Have you searching for best book or suitable book with you?

Ronald Adams:

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John Starr:

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Randy Champion:

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can't see colorful photos on there. Yeah, it is for being complicated. Book is very important for you. As we know that on this period of time, many ways to get whatever we want. Likewise word says, ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore this America the Beautiful: A Novel can make you feel more interested to read.

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