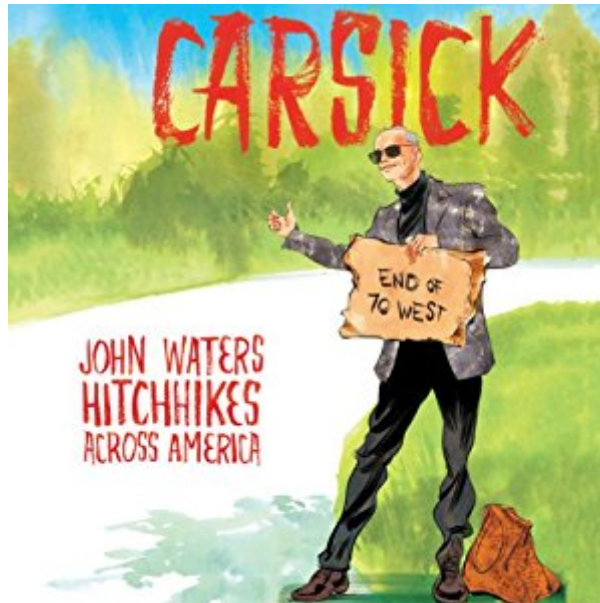




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# Carsick: John Waters Hitchhikes Across America



## Synopsis

A cross-country hitchhiking journey with America's most beloved weirdo. John Waters is putting his life on the line. Armed with wit, a pencil-thin mustache, and a cardboard sign that reads "I'm Not Psycho", he hitchhikes across America from Baltimore to San Francisco, braving lonely roads and treacherous drivers. But who should we be more worried about, the delicate film director with genteel manners or the unsuspecting travelers transporting the Pope of Trash? Before he leaves for this bizarre adventure, Waters fantasizes about the best and worst possible scenarios: A friendly drug dealer hands over piles of cash to finance films with no questions asked, a demolition-derby driver makes a filthy sexual request in the middle of a race, a gun-toting drunk terrorizes and holds him hostage, and a Kansas vice squad entraps and throws him in jail. So what really happens when this cult legend sticks out his thumb and faces the open road? His real-life rides include a gentle 81-year-old farmer who is convinced Waters is a hobo, an indie band on tour, and the perverse filmmaker's unexpected hero: A young, sandy-haired Republican in a Corvette. Laced with subversive humor and warm intelligence, *Carsick* is an unforgettable vacation with a wickedly funny companion - and a celebration of America's weird, astonishing, and generous citizenry.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 8 hours 8 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Macmillan Audio

Audible.com Release Date: June 3, 2014

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00J9QPZVK

Best Sellers Rank: #25 in Books > Travel > United States > South > General #41

in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Travel #53 in Books > Travel > Food,

Lodging & Transportation > Road Travel

## Customer Reviews

i really enjoyed this book. i bought the audible edition, which is narrated by mr. waters himself. i felt as if i were right there beside john the entire time! the book was funny and uplifting. an absolute must for any dreamland fan!! i really liked the best/worse case fantasy scenarios before the actual

account of the trip. mr. water's narration was right on!! i hope he is already dreaming up his next filthy book!! i can't wait!

I LOVE John Waters and have read all his books, watched all his films, and read/watch every interview of his religiously. John Waters has amazing taste and I want him to adopt me. I was so happy when I bought this book on kindle, totally looking forward to being entertained and delighted but it's been a few months and I still have yet to finish this book because it just drags. The idea of making up fake hitchhiking scenarios is fun and for the first couple chapters, it's funny, but then it drags on and on for most of the book. I'm ready to skip the fiction, because it really isn't entertaining at all at this point, to get to what really ended up happening. Right before starting this book, I read Role Models and totally loved it. Carsick is a drag.

John Waters' movies and books remind me of my own twisted suburban filthy fantasied life. Though I never made filthy movies or have never published a filthy book, I have done all these things and more in my filthy mind. My own tainted lens of reality finds a voice in John Waters' perspectives and fantasies. This book is a fantasy AND a biography. Imagine the loneliness of hitchhiking and the wonders of a filthily overactive imagination... well you get that in the first part of the book... all of his fantasies about what could go wildly right and what could go wildly wrong untethered by reality. The second half is the actual story of a 60+ man with sufficient balls and crazy to pack a bag, make a cardboard sign and hitchhike across the country. I listened to the book on a long road trip ... twice. I understand that people like the actual version of events more, but after listening to it a couple times and with my own road hypnosis affecting my mind, I totally get why he did what he did and I'm glad he did. His very existence is nourishing to my heart and to ne'er-do-wells everywhere.

This book is written in three parts - fiction the best possible hitchhiking trip across the USA, followed by fiction the worst possible trip across the USA, followed by John Waters' actual hitchhike from Baltimore to San Fransisco. The two fictional stories are completely over top fun. I really enjoyed the worst possilbe trip, it included all the hitchhiker cliches with some really creative horror pick-ups. The non-fiction story really lets us into John Waters' head. Its fun. I found it ironic that after the two fantasy stories that relied so heavily on his public person to drive the story the non-fiction relied on average people and their varied reactions, from taking care not to engage, to caring people going out of their way to help, regardless of who the hitchhiker was. I got the feeling John Waters was really pleasantly surprised how happy the "normal" people he met were. He spent quite a while in

Kansas, and I have to admit on a road trip in another part of the US a couple of years ago I met really friendly "normal" people from Kansas. We warned John Waters does let you into his thoughts and his fantasies in the book - don't expect something "nice".

I enjoyed this book with such gusto that I could hardly put it down and felt regret when it ended so suddenly. The first part of the book, which was fiction, was hilarious. His imagination on the good rides was incredible. I found myself hoping for John Waters that he would experience something as grand as his imagination in the non-fiction portion. I skipped the fictional bad rides portion because my mind just cannot take horror stories, but for those who like horror, certainly go there! While the real story of his adventure paled in comparison, I was fascinated by its truth. As a writer currently writing about travelers, I wished he had stayed on the streets at night. While I realize it would have been scary, I really believe if he had hooked up with other travelers, he would have had a time as great as his imagination. Way to go John! Keep writing brave soul! You've got talent!

A tour across America with the Pope of Trash, couldn't think of anybody better to do a hitchhiking book about. Not only does this book feature John Waters' true account of his hitchhiking trip, but it also has two novellas of what he imagines to be the best hitchhiking trip imaginable which is upbeat and hopeful, but still keeps that level of John Waters' filth that his people such as myself cling to and the worst hitchhiking trip imaginable which tests the main character similar to how Francine Fishpaw was dragged through a living hell in Polyester. Both novellas are fun reads and as imaginative and John Watersish as you'd hope and pray they'd be. It's an amazing read as a man who was either sixty five or sixty six tell you about how he did something very few anymore have the balls to do, something that was so common in his youth. It's a book that is Americana as apple pie and baseball because in my opinion, rest stops and cheap hotels are far more American than the first two any day of the week. I've yet to read On The Road (because I never attended college so I never went through a snobbish stoner beatnik phase) but I assume Carsick to be the more enjoyable and fun read. Like anything John Waters does, he gives you a different flavor that you have yet to try or even imagine, like if your creepy uncle got to invent his own Ben and Jerry's flavor.

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