

Oct 07 SUMMARY – Breaking the Limit by Larsen

Welcome to 4 new members at our Oct 8 Book Club meeting!! We enjoyed your company and hope you will join us next month. And perhaps we'll see you at the Travel Club meeting as well!

Keith led the discussion of this month's book, Breaking the Limit by Larsen. He brought a map and traced the route for us. Almost everyone suggested a map should have been included in the book, or perhaps the route drawn out at the end of each chapter. Some of us related to places mentioned in the book, e.g., Aspen, Kansas, Wyoming, or to the areas/highways we have also driven.

We discussed how confident she was in traveling and riding her motorcycle; yet how insecure she was in relationships – to the point of being “needy” with her boyfriend. Although she couldn't seem to let go of him for a long time, she did finally have the revelation that she was through with him. We noted she didn't even mention him at the end of her book when she returned home, as though she didn't want to give him anymore space in her book or in her life....yet, one reader wanted closure on what happened to him. She seemed to need reinforcement to boost her confidence, such as when people complemented her on her “gutsyness.” And, she seemed to get overly irritated when someone commented on how odd it was to see a woman alone on a motorcycle. Perhaps it was a lack of confidence that led her to read more into others' comments than was meant. At any rate, we all thought it pretty gutsy for her to stay alone in campgrounds in a soft-sided tent. We did like her contrast of the judgment of a lone woman on a Harley vs. the generosity of strangers, and often wished there were more dialogue included.

Some of us felt she did whine too much about the long days, wind, heat, rain, etc. Did she really like riding her bike as much as she said? We felt her trip was a rite of passage, doing the trip to transition between phases of her life and to meet her biological parents....and we did enjoy these aspects. Some of us also felt she seemed a little ungrateful in her derogatory remarks of Princeton, when she had been given a full scholarship to such a prestigious school.

We liked the wonderful “nuggets” of insight throughout the book, liked the journal quality and conversations with strangers she met, and liked hearing of her “experiencing and growing.” However, we thought the story could have been told in much fewer pages, thought there was too much of the

“turned right on road x, then left on road y” and too much of “the wind pushed from the side, then pushed from behind” dialogue....suggesting it was not as well edited as it could have been. Overall, we were glad it was recommended and were happy to have read it. Our thanks to Keith for leading a very lively and interesting discussion, and to everyone for contributing!!

The next Book Club meeting will be Nov 12 5:30-7:00, again at the Tattered Cover. The book is 1000 Days in Tuscany by de Blasi.

The next Budget Treasures Travel Club meeting is Oct 25 6:00-7:30 pm at Ross U-Hills Library, 4310 E. Amherst Ave. Denver, CO. The program is: "Peru Adventure: Experience the Magic of Machu Picchu, the Ancient Inca Valley and the Amazing Amazon Rainforest" with guest speaker Juan Jimenez. Details on both clubs on the web: budgettreasurestravelclub.com

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