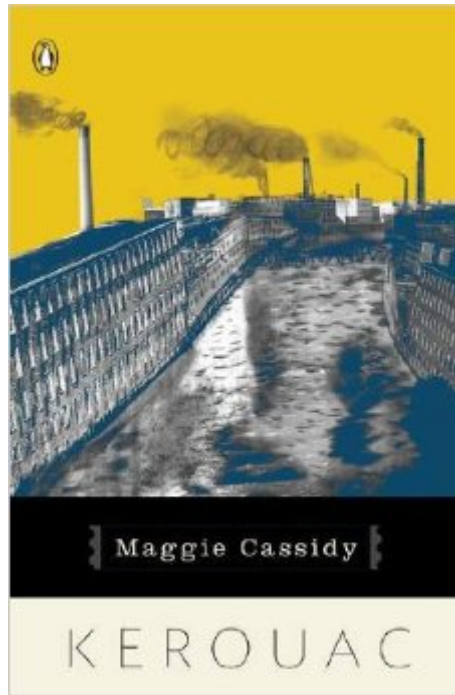


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# Maggie Cassidy



## Synopsis

"When someone asks 'Where does [Kerouac] get that stuff?' say: 'From you!' He lay awake all night listening with eyes and ears. A night of a thousand years. Heard it in the womb, heard it in the cradle, heard it in school, heard it on the floor of life's stock exchange where dreams are traded for gold." —Henry Miller

One of the dozen books written by Jack Kerouac in the early and mid-1950s, *Maggie Cassidy* was not published until 1959, after the appearance of *On the Road* had made its author famous overnight. Long out of print, this touching novel of adolescent love in a New England mill town, with its straight-forward narrative structure, is one of Kerouac's most accessible works. It is a remarkable, bittersweet evocation of the awkwardness and the joy of growing up in America.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Whenever people talk of Kerouac, they're going to start talking about *On the Road*, *The Dharma Bums* or *The Subterraneans*. You can't blame them, after all they are the best known of Kerouac's works, and they're all fine novels. Yet too often Kerouac's lesser works go unnoticed, such as *Desolation Angels*, *Dr. Sax...* and *Maggie Cassidy*. Out of all the Kerouac books I've read, I don't think one has ever made me feel so much, in this case it really took me back to my own adolescence. Much like Kerouac (here called Jack Dulouz) I had my own circle of friends in high school that I ran with on a regular basis and I saw many mirror images of them in Jack's group. And much like Dulouz, I hardly ever see them nowadays. And of course, I had my own *Maggie Cassidy*. It's amazing the similarity of how much Jack and Maggie's relationship ended and how mine and my girlfriend's ended. It was just a gradual end, we both lost interest in each other and our relationship

end in spirit long before we ended it officially. We had both met other people and I had come to the realization that I was too young to be tied down to one person, which I think Dulouz realizes in the end also. And then there are the descriptions that Kerouac gives. It's often been said that his books are poetry and that is most certainly true in this case. The way he describes the snowy New England nights is absolutely beautiful and the way he portrays Maggie you can tell he genuinely felt for her. There are always nuggets of wisdom to be found in Kerouac's book, some insight that he sticks in the middle of his prose/poetry, and there is one in here. He is watching the clock in his living room and what he says is amazing; I won't spoil it for you, you'll just have to read it yourself.

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