



The Leisure Seeker

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The unforgettable cross country journey of a runaway couple in their twilight years determined to meet the end of all roads on their own terms—a major motion picture from Sony Pictures Classics starring Helen Mirren and Donald Sutherland.

The Robinas have shared a wonderful life for more than sixty years. Now in their eighties, Ella suffers from cancer and John has Alzheimer's. Yearning for one last adventure, the self-proclaimed "down-on-their-luck geezers" kidnap themselves from the adult children and doctors who seem to run their lives and steal away from their home in suburban Detroit on a forbidden vacation of rediscovery.

With Ella as his vigilant copilot, John steers their '78 Leisure Seeker RV along the forgotten roads of Route 66 toward Disneyland in search of a past they're having a damned hard time remembering. Yet Ella is determined to prove that, when it comes to life, you can go back for seconds—even when everyone says you can't.

The Leisure Seeker Details

Date : Published January 27th 2009 by William Morrow (first published 2009)

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Author : Michael Zadoorian

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Genre : Fiction, Travel, Contemporary, Humor

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From Reader Review The Leisure Seeker for online ebook

Richard Derus says

Rating: 4.25* of five

*****UPDATE 10/3/2017** Here's a clip that makes me really hopeful for the film's fidelity to the source material. And here's an Hollywood Reporter interview with Helen Mirren and Donald Sutherland! Dream casting!***

****UPDATE 11/10/2016** A feature film starring Helen Mirren and Donald Sutherland will debut in the US during 2017. Talk about dream casting for your novel's movie! I hope Michael Zadoorian is as well served by the screenwriters and producers as he stands to be by his characters' faces.**

The Publisher Says: A sort of *Easy Rider* meets *The Notebook*, Michael Zadoorian's poignant, funny, vibrant, and unforgettable novel, *The Leisure Seeker*, is a story of two seniors who escape from their retirement home and embark upon a hilarious and touching end-of-life road trip. Here is a story that will appeal to a wide range of readers: from retiring Baby Boomers to fans of Mitch Albom, Tom Perotta, David Sedaris, Nick Hornby, and Nicholas Sparks. In fact, the *Detroit Free Press* says, "I would recommend Michael Zadoorian's *The Leisure Seeker* to almost anyone."

My Review: The Robinas got old one day. They couldn't tell you which day, exactly...he has Alzheimer's, she's just old and frankly after a certain point who can tell the days apart anyway?...but it happened, and now, well, The End isn't on the horizon anymore, it's on the to-do list.

Three quotes will tell you all that you need to know about this book. If they fail to appeal, so will this wry, loving, unsparing look at the parade's end.

"We pass a church with a massive blue neon cross, and I am spiritually lifted by feelings of great religiosity. No, I'm not, for crying out loud. Don't be ridiculous. But what I do love about this road is how the gaudy becomes grand, how tastelessness is a way of everyday life."(p37)

"I think about the people in the slides, most of them gone now, heart attacks and cancers, betrayed by the foods we ate, by our La-Z-Boys, by our postwar contentment, everyone getting larger and larger in every year's photographs, our prosperity gone wide." (p57)

"We pass on the Will Rogers Memorial in Claremore. I never much cared for the man. A big phony, I believe. Anyone who never met a man he didn't like just isn't trying hard enough." (p79)

Carmine says

Old, married couple (he has dementia, she has terminal cancer) head out for one last adventure and bicker and fight along the way, but.....they LOVE each other. As they travel Route 66 they will stop at quirky landmarks, meet one dimensional characters and the narrator, the one with cancer, will make a snarky observation. There is really only one question left to answer after page 60 or so...will it be the gun or the exhaust leak in the RV?

Huh. Well, I managed to finish it despite seeing exactly where this was headed from about 1/3 in and then it just went on and on. Sadly, the humor promised by some of the blurbs never materialized. I know I am in the minority at not finding this a 'moving' read. I did not laugh. I did not cry (and I am a big time book cryer.) Books certainly don't need to be uplifting or upbeat, but it is hard to read about characters you don't like or believe. It all felt sort of flat. It is easy to see how this is one of those highly 'discussable' books with lots of issues which is probably why my library system selected it as the 'what if we all read the same book' book of the year.

Karen Germain says

My boyfriend and I have a thing where we pick out books for each other as a surprise. He thought that I would like this because it was about two of my favorite things, road trips and Disneyland. What he didn't realize, is this book was probably the most emotional read I have ever encountered.

Michael Zadorrian write a novel about the end of life. Ella, who is dying from cancer, decides to pack up her RV and take route 66 to Disneyland. Her husband suffers from Alzheimer's and clueless to her plan. He lives minute to minute and goes along with her instructions. Ella's adult children and doctors are very much against this trip, but helpless as Ella's desire for one last vacation supersedes their wishes.

I have had two family members with Alzheimer's and this story perfectly conveyed the disease and frustration that comes with the territory. It actually felt like Zadoorian took scenarios and conversations from my own life. It was eerie. He has obviously encountered this in his own life, because it was pitch perfect.

Personally heartbreaking to read, was Ella going against the wishes of her very concerned children. My mom died of cancer a few years ago and I had the same conversation with her with regard to stopping treatment. As a child, you have to respect your parent's wishes, but that doesn't mean that it's easy or that you don't beg them to reconsider. This was painful to read in the book.

I found a majority of the story very upsetting to read, but only because it was dead-on with emotions that I have felt or situations that I have encountered. This sounds weird, but as a reader, I felt like the author "got me". I found the book impossible to put down.

Pamela says

The Leisure Seeker: It's laugh aloud funny, endearing, eccentric, enthralling, edgy, addictive, metaphoric and character-realistic – sometimes uncannily too realistic, thinking of a few boisterous 'golden oldies' couples I've been blessed (and cursed) to know over the years.

But – and that's a BIG CAUTIONARY BUT - "The Leisure Seeker" is also, at times and often, crass, offensive, irreverent, bawdy, and controversial in tone, theme, ideology, and language. Truly, especially where language is concerned, it was a love/hate reading experience for me. However, love won out. The portions I loved far outweighed any heavy-hearted offense and/or dismay.

"Why does the world have to destroy anything that doesn't fit in? We still can't figure out this is the most important reason to love something."

In all honesty, whether or not I like it or agree, as Ella (narrator and wife of John) points out in finality, it is “her” story – not mine. It is what it is. We don’t have to like the actions and ideologies of others in order to respect individuals and their right to be themselves.

Thanks to the extremely talented Michael Zadoorian for graciously allowing me to ride along with Ella and John down the reminiscing remnants of Route 66 from Illinois to California – where the old Mother Road ends.

Four – READ-AT-YOUR-OWN-DISCRETION – Stars.

A few delightful quotes from the book:

“You spend your life so worried about what others think, when in reality, people mostly don’t think. On the few occasions when they do, true, it is often something bad, but one has to at least admire the fact that they’re thinking at all.”

“Involuntary catnaps: it’s another reason why getting old is for the birds. You don’t mean to fall asleep, but then suddenly you wake up and hours have passed. It’s an entirely different time of day.”

“Sometimes when you least expect it your life becomes a National Geographic special.”

“I realize that this is the problem with photographs. After a while, you can’t remember if you’re recalling the actual memory or the memory of the photograph. Or perhaps the photograph is the only reason you remember that moment.”

“What is truly amazing is that before you know it, sixty years go by and you can remember maybe eight or nine important events, along with a thousand meaningless ones. How can that be?”

Milkysilvermoon says

Ella und John Robina sind nicht nur mehr als 80 Jahre alt, sondern auch schwer erkrankt. Während sie an Krebs im Endstadium leidet, ist seine Demenz schon weit fortgeschritten. Ellas Tage sind gezählt, doch weiteren Operationen und Behandlungen durch die Ärzte will sie sich nicht aussetzen. Stattdessen machen sich die beiden auf einen ungewöhnlichen Roadtrip: Mit ihrem Oldtimer-Wohnmobil, dem „Leisure Seeker“, fahren die Senioren von ihrem Zuhause nahe Detroit in Michigan über die Route 66 einmal quer durch die USA bis zum Disneyland nach Kalifornien. Eine letzte abenteuerliche Reise gegen den Willen ihrer Kinder. Die Fahrt lässt nicht nur alte Erinnerungen aufleben, sondern ist auch eine Probe für ihre Liebe.

„Das Leuchten der Erinnerung“ von Michael Zadoorian ist das Buch zum gleichnamigen Kinofilm mit Helen Mirren und Donald Sutherland.

Meine Meinung:

Erzählt wird die Geschichte im Präsens aus der Ich-Perspektive von Ella. Ihre teils bissigen, teils trockenen Kommentare, die den Leser direkt ansprechen, haben mir sehr gut gefallen. Der Schreibstil ist flüssig und angenehm. Insgesamt durchreist das Paar zehn Staaten. Jedes Mal, wenn die beiden einen neuen Bundesstaat erreichen, beginnt ein weiteres Kapitel, so dass diese unterschiedlich lang sind. Eine schöne Idee, den Roman so zu untergliedern.

Der Leser wird gleich mitten in die Handlung geschmissen. Dennoch bin ich gut in die Geschichte

reingekommen und habe das Buch nur ungern zur Seite gelegt.

Beide Hauptprotagonisten sind mir schnell ans Herz gewachsen. Vor allem Ella war mir gleich sympathisch. Ihr Sarkasmus und Galgenhumor, ihre schnodrige und direkte Art haben mich angesprochen. Es ist absolut bewegend, wie sie sich trotz ihrer eigenen Qualen durchkämpft, um sich um ihren Mann zu kümmern. Auch John ist ein liebenswerter Charakter, für den ich viel Mitgefühl entwickelt habe. Die übrigen Personen im Roman wirken ebenfalls authentisch.

Der Schluss der Geschichte ist ebenso wie die gesamte Handlung glaubwürdig und stimmig. Mehrere überraschende Ereignisse sorgen für Spannung. Positiv anzumerken ist auch der Wechsel zwischen humorvollen Episoden und traurigen Momenten – eine gelungene Mischung. Sehr berührt haben mich nicht nur die Passagen, in denen es darum geht, wie sich die Krankheiten der beiden äußern. Auch die Erinnerungen an die Vergangenheit und tiefgründige Betrachtungen über das Leben sind ergreifend und haben mich zum Nachdenken gebracht. Dabei setzt der Roman jedoch nicht auf Kitsch und übermäßige Dramatik, sondern berührt mit leisen Tönen. Auch weniger ereignisreiche Passagen habe ich als kurzweilig und unterhaltsam empfunden. Das liegt nicht zuletzt daran, dass man durch die Schilderungen einiges über die Besonderheiten und Sehenswürdigkeiten der einzelnen Staaten erfährt. Da bekommt man selbst ein wenig Fernweh.

Das deutsche Cover ist an das Filmplakat angelehnt und trifft meinen Geschmack. Auch der Titel des Romans, der stark vom amerikanischen Original („The Leisure Seeker“) abweicht, sagt mir zu und ist passend gewählt.

Mein Fazit:

„Das Leuchten der Erinnerung“ von Michael Zadoorian ist ein warmherziger, emotionaler Roman, der mich begeistern konnte und bei mir noch eine Weile nachwirken wird. Ich kann das Buch wärmstens empfehlen und werde mir mit Sicherheit noch die Verfilmung ansehen.

Colleen says

After 50 years of marriage, John and Ella sneak away from their children and doctors to travel to Disneyland along Route 66, remembering and reliving family vacations from the past. Between Ella's cancer and John's Alzheimer's, they face plenty of challenges along the road as they try to enjoy the time with one another.

This book was an incredible story of meeting life on its own terms right up until the very end. Though parts of the book are laugh-out-loud funny, others will bring tears to your eyes. Watching John and Ella deal with their individual challenges while trying to be strong for one another, I couldn't help but be on their side against their children and doctors as they sought to take an illicit trip down memory lane.

The ending (don't worry- no spoilers here) was not a surprise; Zadoorian did such a deft job of his storytelling that it seemed natural and understandable. I felt connected to each of the characters (even the children I couldn't side with) and was truly invested in the story. This is a wonderful book that deals realistically with the issues of breast cancer and Alzheimer's, life and death, love and loss. Strongly written, extremely empathetic, this is a highly recommended fast read.

Chrissie says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book from start to finish, from the first paragraph to the last. It never sagged. This is a story about a couple, Ella and John Robina. They have been married over fifty years. They are both in their eighties. Both are sick: John with Alzheimer's and Ella with cancer. So they must decide what to do with their lives. Yes, Ella was sure! They needed a vacation. What could be better than to take Route 66 again, that route that they so often traveled when they were young and the family was four, before the kids left home? While they travel they haul out their projector and slides and look again at their lives. They have cocktails, grill their food, snooze, take little naps and drive all the way to Disneyland in California. She has her little blue pills.

Does that sound sad and depressing? Yes, I supposed it might, but think, they are both in their eighties and they have had good lives. It is not hard to believe that the book could prove to be thoughtful and down-to-earth and wise. But the author goes one step further and makes it very, very funny. I laughed on every page. I did. You laugh and you smile and you shed a melancholic tear occasionally. Mostly you laugh and maybe think a teeny bit about how you want to live your own life. The message is not all that astounding. What is astounding is the humor embedded in the story. Yes, I really did laugh out loud and exclaim as the events unfolded. You see the book is more about living and enjoying life than about its end. Ella and John and the characters they meet on their travels are very ordinary people. The conversations are so classically ordinary that you cannot help but smile. There is quite a bit of irony in the humor.

I listened to the audiobook. The narration, by Judith West, was superb. Ella's voice was of a spunky old woman, and John had a crusty, solid baritone. When the narrator spoke for them it felt like I was overhearing a true conversation between two old geezers. When I think now of Ella, I know how she sounds and that is Ella. The same is true of John. Voice says a lot about a person. The narration gets five stars.

So why only four stars for the book? Well, because the situation is in fact not extraordinary. It felt so real, such a perfect description of two old geezers. Does that mean it is worth five stars? To perfectly capture this old couple, their lives and their dialogs, their sorrows and happiness and fear? It is all there. It is just a personal thing, I think; I would more readily give a book filled with real facts, that is also engagingly written, five stars. My head tells me this is all wrong. Maybe it is the author that builds a story from nothing, that creates with his words an imaginary world that seems genuinely real, that is the most talented? I did enjoy every minute listening to this audiobook. Heck I will give it five. Why not? It is not amazing, but I really did love it. I didn't just like it a lot. It was better than that.

I am currently listening to the audiobook: The Leisure Seeker. It is fabulous. Why? Because every line is perfect. Every damn line. I do not think I am going to write a review, I am just sucking it all up. I cannot copy that sentence and that sentence and that. Take my word for it. Read the book description and just trust me on this. Read this book. I listened to the audiobook. You can also go to Audible, write in the title and listen to the sample.

This book will have you smiling. It is true, I have just begun, so I cannot be sure about the ending. OK, maybe I will say something on completion.

This is still on sale at Audible for USD4.16. Narration by Judith West.

piperitapitta says

Tutti i grandi sono stati bambini una volta. Ma pochi di essi se ne ricordano.

(*Antoine De Saint-Exupéry - Il Piccolo Principe*)

Chissà perché da piccoli si ha l'idea che crescendo si diventi una persona completamente diversa da quelli che si è stati da bambini.

Poi arrivi a trent'anni, ad esempio, e ti accorgi che molte delle cose che pensavi a dodici anni le pensi ancora; ma soprattutto ti accorgi che alcune delle cose che pensavi non erano affatto cose da bambini, erano pensieri interi, da adulto: pensieri fondanti della persona che sei diventato da grande.

Però a trent'anni, ad esempio, pensi lo stesso che a sessanta, settanta, o figuriamoci a ottant'anni, sarai un'altra persona, completamente diversa.

Sarai saggia, matura, pronta ad accettare quel declino che inevitabilmente la vita ti prospetta.

Starai lì tranquillo - immagini - a fare il vecchietto, senza aver altre pretese che quelle di una serena e tranquilla sopravvivenza: mangiare, dormire, se serve - anzi, servirà di sicuro perché inutile a dirsi qualche acciaccio dovuto all'età ce l'avrai anche tu - curarti: dimentico di quello che sei stato, di quello che ti piaceva fare, di quello che eri.

Al massimo potrai fare il nonno e spupazzarti i nipoti, per il resto sarai un anziano e cercherai di non arrecare disturbo a nessuno.

Ella e John invece, a ottant'anni suonati "sono" ancora, nonostante gli acciacchi: lei è malata terminale, si muove a fatica e riesce a superare le crisi dovute alla sua malattia solo grazie alle "pilloline blu" dalle quali non si separa mai.

John al contrario è integro nel fisico ma soffre di Alzheimer e spesso non è consapevole nemmeno di dove si trovi.

Insieme però, come dice Ella, fanno una persona intera.

E questa persona, Ella+John, è una persona viva, che non ha voglia di consumarsi in attesa della morte, ma vuole ancora divertirsi, scoprire e provare nuove emozioni: in poche parole vuole decidere da sola cosa sia meglio per sé.

Sfidando quindi il divieto dei figli, Ella e John partono in camper da (vicino) Detroit alla volta di Disneyland, decisi - beh, a decidere in realtà è solo Ella, John si limita a guidare e a farsi guidare! - a percorrere la mitica Route 66 da costa a costa, in un viaggio che sarà scoperta, ricordo, paura, divertimento, ma soprattutto libertà.

"Non sai quant'è brutta la vecchiaia" mi diceva sempre nonna Gina!

Ora ho capito che non si riferiva solamente ai dolori, alla consapevolezza di essere quasi giunti al termine della propria esistenza, alla paura del distacco.

La sofferenza più grande per un anziano, probabilmente, è quella di essere considerato dalla società e purtroppo molto spesso anche dalle persone che gli sono più care, una persona che ha esaurito la scorta e il diritto ad avere desideri, una persona che non ha più nulla da chiedere ma, soprattutto, che non ha più niente in comune nel proprio essere con quello che è stata.

Ecco, *In viaggio contromano*, pur essendo un romanzo apparentemente leggero e divertente che si legge in un soffio, mi ha fatto capire che tra venti o trent'anni - forse - un giorno penserò ancora una di quelle cose che pensavo a dodici anni: e questo è bellissimo.

[9 dicembre 2017] Oggi perché, ho appena letto che da questo romanzo è stato tratto l'ultimo film di Paolo Virzì, con Donald Sutherland e Helen Mirren.

Will Byrnes says

Michael Zadoorian - image from Mangialibri.com

This is a delightful novel of two old people on their final road trip. She suffering from a variety of terminal illnesses, he in and out of awareness as Alzheimer's shreds his remnant memories. Sounds grim, but it is anything but, filled as it is with humor, down-to-earth humanity and a very elevated spirit. This should have been as popular as Marley and Me. It deserved to be.

The film adaptation is set for release 1/19/18

Donald Sutherland and Helen Mirren

Aisling says

When you feel bereft upon closing a book, then you know the characters have left the page and come to life. It is easy to see why this book was optioned to be made into a movie but sadly the movie cannot capture the internal dialogue of the narrator, Ella. Don't miss that! If you plan to see the movie, read the book first.

This book is about a road trip but also about memories, love, and choices. It's about the heartbreak of getting older, getting sick, but also the joy of life as seen by those who have lived it. This is a very moving book but riddled with humour and it has one of the best ending lines I have seen in a long while (no cheating--it won't make any sense unless you read the whole thing anyway.)

Kudos to Michael Zadoorian. I don't know how he captured the voice of an 80 year old woman so brilliantly but I fell in love with both characters and I am sad, truly, to have finished the book. This is a must read.

Katie B says

This was a true gem of a book! The author somehow managed to find the perfect balance of sad and touching moments mixed with the right amount of humor so the book isn't completely depressing. Elderly couple Ella and John Robina take off on a road trip to Disneyland against the wishes of their kids and their doctors. She has cancer and he is suffering from Alzheimer's. Ella is hoping this one last great adventure will help them revisit a lifetime of memories.

I knew fairly early on this book was for me when the Robinas started traveling thru towns that are near where I grew up. My husband and I love to travel and even though we are about half the age of the couple, there was so much I could relate to in terms of being in a long term relationship. It wasn't difficult at all to understand what Ella was feeling. Marriage is a partnership with each person having a role to play, and it was heartbreaking when Ella realized there were certain things she had always depended on that John just wasn't able to do anymore. This is the type of book in which you really insert yourself into some of the situations and wonder how you would react if you were the main character.

Highly recommend this book! I am excited to see how this translates to the big screen. Helen Mirren seems

like she would be perfect in the role of Ella.

I won this book in a giveaway but was under no obligation to post a review. All views expressed are my honest opinion.

Carole says

I really enjoyed this journey with Ella & John. He has Alzheimer's and she has cancer. They decide to follow Route 66 for their last vacation against their children's and Drs advice. I laughed so hard, I cried at the humor and predicaments they got into. I just traveled with my parents from Florida back to Wisconsin, and we had plenty of laughter on our road trip. I think it's important to find humor in the golden years! Some would say it's a sad story, but I don't feel that way. They enjoyed their travels, and I think they wouldn't have wanted it any other way.

Lynne Spreen says

I am so happy Michael Zadoorian wrote this book that I have to tell you about it. The Leisure Seeker, named after a particular model of recreational vehicle, is about John and Ella, a Midwestern couple in their eighties, fading fast, taking one last road trip. John has Alzheimers and Ella, end-stage cancer. The story is told in Ella's plain, smart, funny voice (I kept thinking she sounded like Roseanne Barr).

Zadoorian writes with such humor that I found myself laughing all the way through what should have been a painful story. I loved Ella's wit and strength, and her lonely vulnerability which she keeps at bay while navigating this final voyage. She is mentally sharp but physically frail. John is the opposite. Of all the parts of his brain that are fading to black, the driving part still thrives. John is a good driver, obedient to Ella's directions. Of course, he's unreliable – she must take the keys from the ignition when they stop to ensure he doesn't drive off without her. And the gun she hides in her purse. She laughs that between the two of them they make one complete person.

Throughout the story, Zadoorian offers homage to a bygone America, and a certain kind of American. In Ella's words:

“We are the people who stay. We stay in our homes and pay them off. We stay at our jobs. We do our thirty and come home to stay even more. We stay until we are no longer able to mow our lawns and our gutters sag with saplings, until our houses look haunted to the neighborhood children. We like it where we are. I guess then the other question is: Why do we even travel? There can be only one answer to that: we travel to appreciate home.”

The Leisure Seeker shows us what it's like to experience Alzheimer's, and in spite of the humor and periods of relative normalcy, the devastation is heartbreaking, as when John repeats this cycle: learning that a dear friend has died, grieving, forgetting, and then learning all over again of the death and experiencing the grief full-force all over again. Repeatedly. To spare him, Ella has learned to lie. The friend is fine; he's been busy with family.

I loved how they watched movies almost every night, wherever they camped. John sets up the slide projector and hangs a sheet on the side of the RV, Ella fixes cocktails, and they relive the memories of being a family, and of seeing their two kids growing up. One night, as Ella and John view slides of the 1967 Seattle World's Fair, a group of young people watch from the shadows. Ella invites them to sit closer. Beers are opened and the two generations, far apart in age, mingle and comment at the miniskirts and go-go boots.

Zadoorian never belabors any of this. When the story evokes the reader's tears, it's manageable, because Ella is strong. Her reflections on life are ours, and in just the right amount. The author never tells us how to think.

He simply rolls the film. I liked that he had the skill and confidence to let us draw our own conclusions. You know what I loved the most about this book? It gave me courage: I felt like maybe, whatever comes in the future as a result of aging and disease, I'll follow Ella's example and handle it.

Gina *loves sunshine* says

My first favorite of the year 2018!!! Bravo to the author for taking such a difficult and depressing story that will effect so many couples, and thank you for bringing it to life for all generations - giving it heart, humor, sadness and awareness. I walk away from the this story even more excited to stay healthy, stay active, and fight disease with my lifestyle! Arugula over Bologna any day!

I connected with this story on so many levels.... I just love reading about old people so much! I love their wisdom, honesty, their thriftiness, the funny one liners, and the way they look at future generations or reminisce about the past! I loved seeing the day to day through John's eyes - sometimes really clear and sometimes a bit fuzzy. Ella, always the thinker and the planner and the first person to point out the obvious to her husband! I loved the nuances of a husband and wife who live life together daily. The routine, the schedule, the things they love together, the things that bug them - It was naggy and endearing all at the same time.

You can't help but feel their love, even though their world is crumbling down. The Author did such a good job of showing the good and the bad. I loved the whole aspect of the RV trip and taking the Route 66, the flashbacks to the good ole days and how that led to where they were today - how it shapes relationships, children, friends, etc. My father in law also suffered from Dementia mixed with Lou Gherig's and had a lot of the same characteristics as John in the last few years of his life. It was sad and also very comforting to read!! I pictured Helen Mirren and Donald Sutherland the whole time I was reading this and I can't wait to see the movie!!!!

Highly recommend this sad but wonderful story!!!

Patty says

4/19 A friend went to the Chelsea Library Poetry/Book function on Satureday and the author, who lives "near Detroit" was there reading from his novel and signing books.

My friend gave me the book for my "first social security check" Party. I began it last night and couldn't stop reading. Very funif you think getting old can be fun.

4/23 I wanted to savor every mile that John and Ella traveled. They began in Detroit in their old family motor home, the Leisure Seeker and took Route 66 to visit Disneyland for the last time.

I started jotting down memorable lines and then started putting in sticky notes when they got to Texas and then just gave up when they reached New Mexico and enjoyed the rest of the ride.

I laughed out loud and got choked up.

I want everyone to read this love story/travel log/prescription for life.
