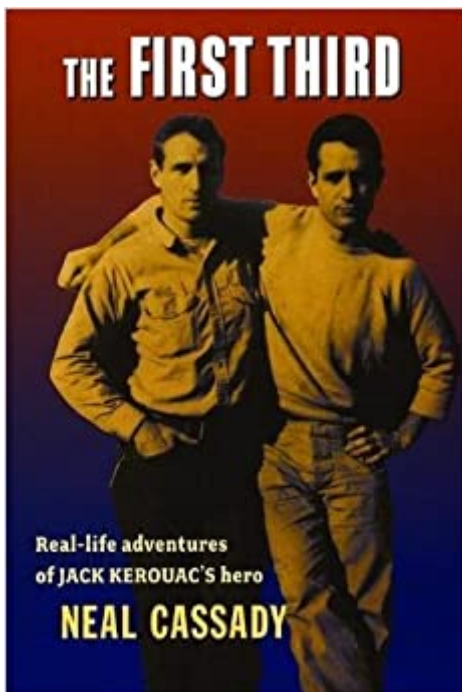


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# The First Third



## Synopsis

Immortalized as Dean Moriarty by Jack Kerouac in his epic novel, *On the Road*, Neal Cassady was infamous for his unstoppable energy and his overwhelming charm, his savvy hustle and his devil-may-care attitude. A treasured friend and traveling companion of Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, William Burroughs, and Ken Kesey, to name just some of his cohorts on the beatnik path, Cassady lived life to the fullest, ready for inspiration at any turn. Before he died in Mexico in 1968, just four days shy of his forty-second birthday, Cassady had written the jacket blurb for this book:

"Seldom has there been a story of a man so balled up. No doubt many readers will not believe the veracity of the author, but I assure these doubting Thomases that every incident, as such, is true." As Ferlinghetti writes in his editor's note, Cassady was "an early prototype of the urban cowboy who a hundred years ago might have been an outlaw on the range." Here are his autobiographical writings, the rambling American saga of a truly free individual. Neal Cassady (1926-1968) was a key figure and writer during the Beat Generation and is known as the inspiration for Jack Kerouac's immortalizing character Dean Moriarty. In 1946, Cassady traveled to New York City where he met famous Beat poets and writers such as Jack Kerouac, William S. Burroughs, and Allen Ginsberg. Cassady's works were never published during his lifetime.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Luke Daniels has narrated over 250 audiobooks, has been the grateful recipient of thirteen AudioFile Earphones Awards, and has earned three Audie nominations. His background is in classical theater and film. Luke has performed at repertory theaters around the country, but now he

resides in the Midwest with his pack. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

excellent!

This book is written in a disjointed fashion that reminds me somewhat of Jim Tully, It provides valuable insight into the early life of Neal Cassady and the writing may reflect his speaking style (which had a profound influence on Kerouac and others). Along with "Off the Road" it shines light on the human being behind the myth who influenced two generations.,

This is interesting. Not the greatest thing to read but I give it four stars because if you're in the middle of reading all the beat stuff then it's got its place. I'd say read it if you're going through a beat thing. Otherwise don't really worry about reading it.

Excellent!

Fascinating man. Lived a small sordid life and had a vision to be an important writer. A True Outsider Artist---a True Outlier. The book is also small, but gives us a flash into a time of great strangeness and hedonism.

Outstanding in Every way

A really good book for Jack Kerouac fans. I also got to see well done film versions of On the Road and Big Sur

Good book and full of great info on a real vagabond . Great read before rereading On The Road by Jack Kerouac

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