

THE SUNSET ROUTE



*Freight Trains, Forgiveness, and Freedom
on the Rails in the American West*

CARROT QUINN

**BOOK
CLUB
KIT**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why are Carrot and her friends drawn to riding freight trains, even though it's extremely dangerous and difficult? Why does Carrot eventually decide to stop?
2. How does Carrot's relationship with her brother Jordan evolve throughout the memoir? How did Carrot and Jordan react to the circumstances and abuse of their childhood in different ways?
3. What strengths did Carrot have or develop that enabled her to escape her situation, first in fleeing Anchorage, then in leaving her grandparents' house?
4. Carrot often rereads Annie Dillard's *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*. What does this book mean to her? Do you have a book you return to again and again? If so, what is it?
5. Why does Carrot decide to change her name? What turning point does it mark in her life?
6. Carrot writes, "I often feel as though I am as alone as it is possible for a person to be . . . I am learning that there is no bottom to how alone a person can feel." Have you ever felt this way? How can you help another person through these feelings?
7. Finding a group of like-minded friends—or a chosen family—is invaluable. What does Carrot learn from the people she meets? How do they help shape the person she becomes?
8. How does nature help Carrot heal? Do you feel similar benefits being in nature?
9. What do you think motivated Carrot to share her story?
10. Carrot describes needing "armor to live in this sharp world." What do you think is the balance between protecting yourself and remaining open to others?
11. Did you have preconceived opinions about any of the communities Carrot finds herself in, like those of anarchists, dumpster divers, or hitchhikers? How, if at all, did your opinions change while reading the book?
12. How does Carrot come to terms with her father's abandonment and her mother's neglect? Do you think it's possible for a person to truly get closure from such deep wounds?
13. What scene from *The Sunset Route* has stayed with you the most? Why?



PLAYLIST

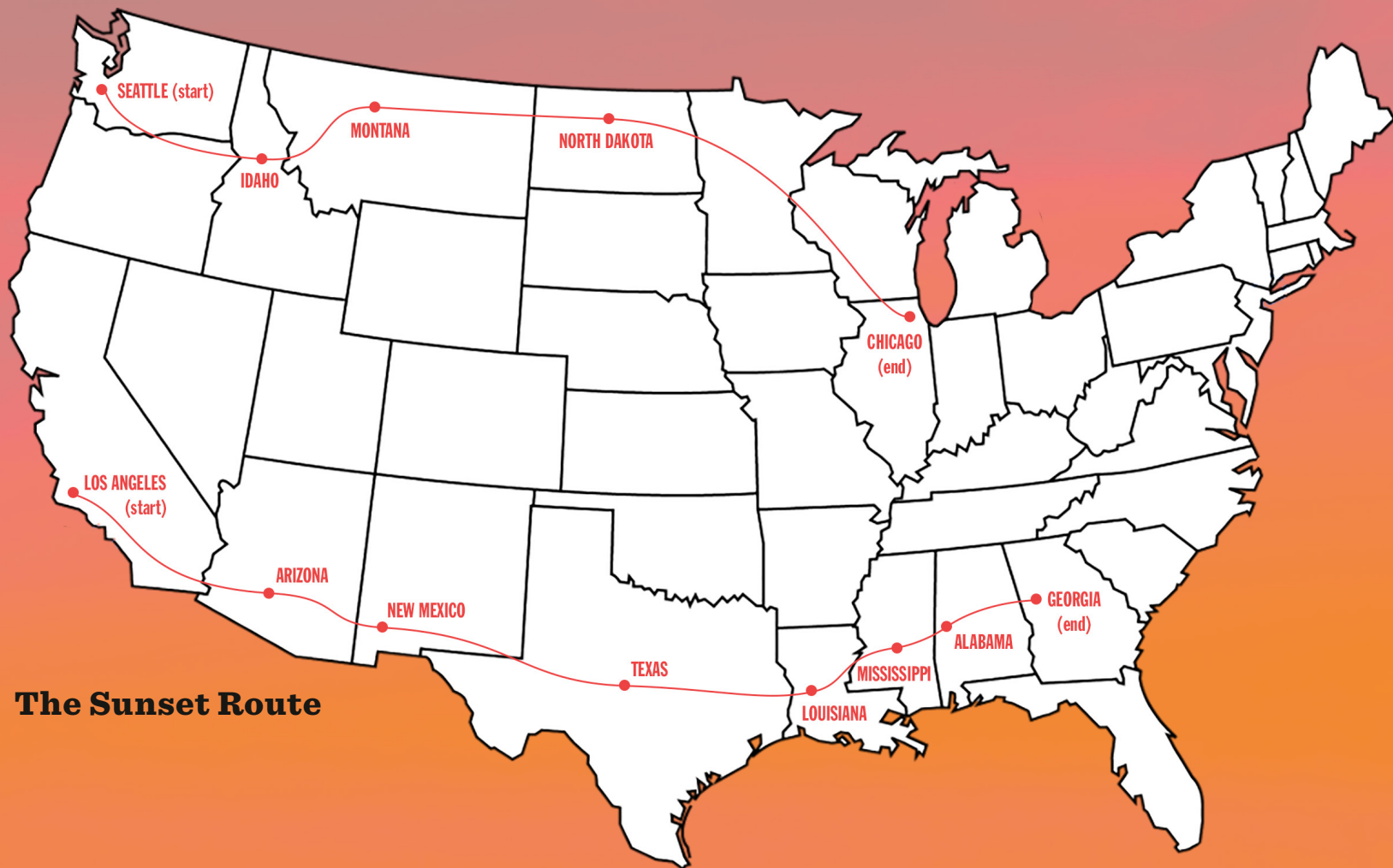
Listen to Carrot Quinn's complete playlist inspired by *The Sunset Route* **on Spotify**.
Below, a sampling of the songs included:

1. "The Subtleties of Chores and Unlocked Doors" by Des Ark
2. "Sleeping Dogs" by Madeline
3. "Home to Me" by Madeline
4. "King of Carrot Flowers Pt. 1" by Neutral Milk Hotel
5. "In the Aeroplane Over the Sea" by Neutral Milk Hotel
6. "Jordan's First Choice" by Against Me!
7. "Those Anarcho Punks Are Mysterious" by Against Me!
8. "The Book of Love" by The Magnetic Fields
9. "Grand Canyon" by The Magnetic Fields
10. "Eloise" by Des Ark
11. "Dumpster Dive Mother" by Madeline
12. "Sailing Away" by Madeline



TRAIN ROUTES

The Highline



The Sunset Route

PHOTOS

