



## Done and Been: Steel Rail Chronicles of American Hobos

By Gypsy Moon, Gypsy Moon, Gypsy

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**Done and Been: Steel Rail Chronicles of American Hobos** By Gypsy Moon, Gypsy Moon, Gypsy

Hobos are part of the history of railroading in America. Committed to the work ethic, but also restless and eager for adventure, these knights of the iron rails developed a lifestyle and a community based on their search for work and their love of adventure. Jacqueline Schmidt, who was later elected a Queen of the Hobos, has collected their stories in this fascinating volume. She has also teamed up with modern-day hobos to ride the rails in search of adventure and self-knowledge. Her book gives us a history of hobos, a collection of fascinating stories, an account of what it is like for a middle-class woman to take to the dangerous pastime of hoboeing, and a delicious collection of hobo recipes.

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## **Done and Been: Steel Rail Chronicles of American Hobos** By Gypsy Moon, Gypsy Moon, Gypsy **Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #233235 in Books
- Published on: 1996-04-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.02" h x .56" w x 6.03" l,
- Binding: Paperback
- 216 pages

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Jacqueline Schmidt (aka Gypsy Moon, Queen of the Hobos) has brought to light the transient lives of hobos who ride the rails. Storytelling is a time-honored tradition with these folks, and their own anecdotes of narrow escape and adventure are no disappointments. Personal accounts told compellingly and in poignant simplicity add flavor to the book, and though some readers may be put off by these unconventional souls, most will come away intrigued and educated. Gypsy Moon, whose father was a hobo for a time, grew up surrounded by the mystique of the free-spirited tribe, and her fascination led her to seek out some of the characters she had heard so much about. Schmidt gained the trust of many of the usually cautious people she interviewed, and following a trip on a freight train, she earned the name Gypsy Moon from the "Railriders of America." She dispels many myths about hobos, who began the tradition by riding the rails in search of work. According to Steamtrain Maury, "bums are usually alcoholics or men that can't work, or won't work. But the hobos all had good trades and good arts and crafts that they worked at. And they made their way. They didn't bum their way." Along with Gypsy Moon's journal of her trip and interviews are photographs, a glossary of terms and a compilation of hobo recipes, adding more spice to this unusual book. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From [Booklist](#)

Though less so now, perhaps, than during the Depression, the hobo is a familiar American character, and hobo culture remains a distinctive component of American society. Gypsy Moon (aka Jacqueline K. Schmidt, former director of the Indiana Transportation Museum) affords an affectionate look at general hobo history by setting down hoboes' oral histories. Historically connected to the railroads, the Wobblies (i.e., the syndicalist union, the Industrial Workers of the World), and good old American movin' around, these "knights of the rails" are noted for their colorful nicknames (Texas Madman, Ramblin' Rudy, Steamtrain Maury, etc.) and occasional forays into folk poetry. But "GMoon" (who was duly elected Queen of the Hoboes at a 1990 hobo convention) also acquaints us with hoboes' sense of community, the rules of their society, and their work ethic. And, oh yes, she includes some authentic hobo recipes, a glossary, and oodles of road wisdom, such as safety tips for those inclined to take to the rails themselves. *Mike Tribby*

From Kirkus Reviews

An adventurous daughter of an ex-hobo gamely rides the rails, treks through hobo jungles, and even gets crowned National Queen of the Hobos in this stew-to-nuts treatise. Gypsy Moon (the moniker bestowed on Jacqueline K. Schmidt after her inaugural ride on a grain car) does not need to travel widely in search of her quarry. A former director of the Indiana Transportation Museum, she maintains a shack for hobos behind her house. Here and at the annual hobo gathering in Britt, Iowa (where she was inducted into royalty in 1990), the writer sought out colorfully named old-timers, most of whom did their freight-hopping earlier in the century. While their stories have a sameness to them, particularly with respect to hobo ethics about sharing and work, one is struck by the lack of suspicion and generosity shown by townspeople of the 1920s and '30s to these men (and sometimes women): Bakers routinely gave them their day-old bread; butchers contributed scraps to their mulligan stews, and housewives fed them in return for some wood chopped or a floor swept. All faced the dangers of falling between cars, getting beaten and thrown from trains by railroad ``yard dicks," or being robbed by ``jackrollers," who preyed upon these migrant workers for their wages. Not content to merely report their stories, however, Moon undertakes a short but harrowing journey aboard several freight trains through the midwest in company of a younger hobo who shows her the ropes--which includes getting soaked to the skin in a rainstorm and evading railroad police by dangerously climbing over the couplings of a

“live” train. In addition, readers seeking a gastronomic guide will find hobo recipes such as Snapshot’s caboose chili and Be-Gone Norm’s bean soup. A sincere and simply-written work, best read as a glimpse into an earlier, poorer, but less cynical America. (22 b&w photos, not seen) -- Copyright ©1996, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Ruth Ward:**

As people who live in often the modest era should be change about what going on or details even knowledge to make them keep up with the era which can be always change and move forward. Some of you maybe may update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice in your case but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know which one you should start with. This Done and Been: Steel Rail Chronicles of American Hobos is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and want in this era.

#### **Marie Flynt:**

The e-book with title Done and Been: Steel Rail Chronicles of American Hobos has a lot of information that you can discover it. You can get a lot of profit after read this book. This book exist new know-how the information that exist in this book represented the condition of the world currently. That is important to yo7u to understand how the improvement of the world. This kind of book will bring you within new era of the glowbal growth. You can read the e-book in your smart phone, so you can read the idea anywhere you want.

#### **Hollie Hoffman:**

Exactly why? Because this Done and Been: Steel Rail Chronicles of American Hobos is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap this but latter it will jolt you with the secret it inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who else write the book in such wonderful way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of gains than the other book have got such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I have been you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

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