

# Catie's Summer Buzz 2024

## Road Trip Reads

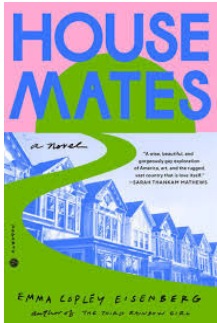
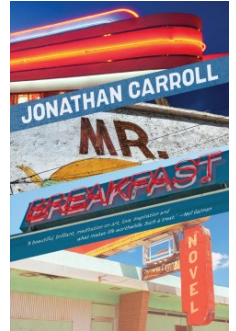


### Arikawa, Hiro. **The Travelling Cat Chronicles** (2018)

Ever wondered what was going through a cat's mind? Then it's time to meet Nanna, a former stray with a crooked tail, Nanna is ready to tell all. The Cat and her human companion Satoru, take off on a road trip across Japan to visit Satoru's closest friends, leaving Nanna curious about why her loving companion keeps trying to find her a new home. Meeting these new people from Satoru's past, Nanna learns more about her loyal companion. This book provides a unique perspective on love, wisdom, friendship, and loss.

### Carroll, Jonathan. **Mr. Breakfast** (2023)

This thought-provoking, literary tale is a perfect fit for readers looking to explore how humans make complex life choices. It contemplates the what-ifs and blends elements of magical realism as the main character Graham Patterson, a failing comedian, hits the road in North Carolina, hoping to figure out his life before he gets to California. Along the way, a new tattoo unlocks the ability to see the three possible timelines available to him and to choose a new path.

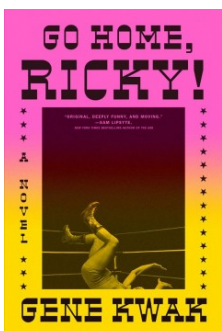
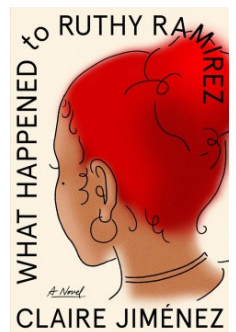


### Eisenberg, Emma. **Housemates** (2024)

Two young, aspiring artists who, after becoming housemates in Philadelphia, set out on the road through the expansive rural countryside of Pennsylvania to search for their artistic vision, trying to understand the world around them, as well as themselves. Eisenberg expertly writes an emotional and challenging exploration of queer identity and artistic expression, set against the vibrant backdrop of forgotten parts of America.

### Jiménez, Claire. **What Happened to Ruthy Ramirez** (2023)

The Ramirez sisters grew up in Staten Island in a Puerto Rican household that suffered the loss of their sister Ruthy, who disappeared at age 13. Over a decade later the sisters, Nina and Jessica are shocked to see a woman who looks exactly like their missing sister performing on a Reality TV show. The sisters and their mother take a road trip to Boston in search of Ruthy. Jiménez's work is a good fit for someone looking for an intense family drama that explores themes of race, and the complexity of identity. A quick-paced read, brimming with sharp language, Jiménez creates a heartbreaking illustration of a family trying to pull the pieces back together.

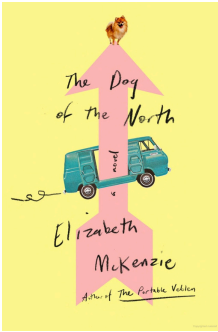


### Kwak, Gene. **Go Home, Ricky!** (2021)

Ricky, an immature, brassy, and sometimes intensive wrestler starts this novel with everything going his way. He has a loving girlfriend, a supportive mother, a great career, until he is stricken with a debilitating injury which throws everything into perspective. He hits the road to learn more about himself and try to find the father he never met. Perfect for those looking for literary introspection - Kwak confronts life's hardships, midwest masculinity, and how people define who they are.

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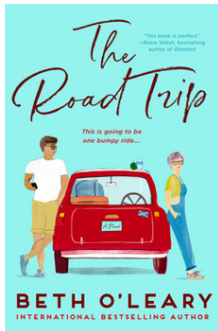
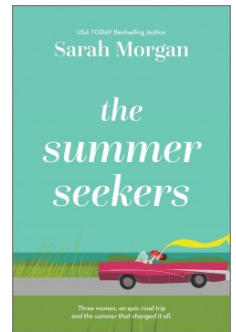


### McKenzie, Elizabeth. **The Dog of the North** (2023)

Feeling like she's hit rock bottom after leaving her job, marriage, and home, Penny Rush embarks on an unexpected and chaotic journey. She takes her last bits of savings and heads to Santa Barbara to take care of her aging grandmother, a cantankerous hoarder who mistrusts everyone. What she finds there is chaos and a skeleton in the shed. Full of dark humor and quick-witted dialogue, it is easy to fall in love with the flawed characters and root for them.

### Morgan, Sarah. **The Summer Seekers** (2021)

Kathleen, Martha, and Lisa, are three women from different generations, all at a crossroads in their lives, setting out on a road trip across America. An uplifting and humorous tale, the three women discover that it's never too late to start over and to be true to themselves. Morgan immerses the reader in her character's lives as they open themselves up to new opportunities and slips in a lot of humorous dialogue along the way.

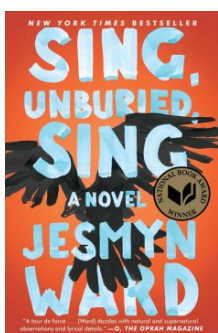
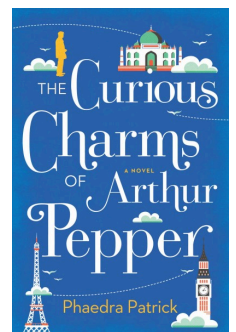


### O'Leary, Beth. **The Road Trip** (2021)

They say to try and avoid running into your exes. In Addie and Dylan's case, they do - physically, with their cars - on their way to a mutual friend's wedding. Alternative modes of travel are not an option in rural Scotland and Dylan's car was completely wrecked, so Dylan, Addie, Addie's Sister, Dylan's best friend Marcus, and a man who hitched a ride from the wedding Facebook group all pile into Addie's Mini Cooper. A hilarious light-hearted romance that will have you laughing out loud.

### Phaedra, Patrick. **The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper** (2016)

Arthur Pepper enjoys a good routine and never sees the purpose in traveling out of one's comfort zone. He has tea at the same time every day and will not even alter the schedule for his only daughter. On the anniversary of his wife's death, the discovery of a gold charm bracelet leads him on an adventure. With each charm's mystery unlocked, he learns more about his wife's life before they were together. The author's light tone allows the reader to see the world open up through Peppers's eyes.



### Ward, Jesmyn. **Sing Unburied Sing** (2017)

This award-winning novel follows a young boy Jojo, his drug-addicted mother Leonie, and his 3-year-old sister on a road trip to pick up his incarcerated father as he is being released from prison. During the trip across rural Mississippi, dark family secrets are revealed from the past and present. Ward's characters struggle with their identities as they have been altered by incarceration, addiction, and racial violence in rural Mississippi. Jesmyn Ward, known for her lyrical writing style and her in-depth description, is an impactful read for the summer.