

# CRASHING AMERICA

It's 1999. A San Francisco street kid steals a car and leaves town for the heartland — fearing she won't survive her 18th birthday and desperate to find the meaning of home.

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Feature | Drama | Coming of age |  
Road trip | LGBTQ+



# Synopsis

CRASHING AMERICA  
is now.

It's an urban and a heartland road story, a young female surviving-the-odds adventure, a universal saga of search for home and history.

Girl is a tough, complex and brave young woman. She's a victim of her circumstances and yet not a victim. We want to see her find her truth and win.



Girl is kicked out of her Granddad's house. Then suddenly her closest buddy dies. When fellow street hustler, Angus, leaves her for Memphis, Girl hits the road herself—speeding away from San Francisco to the cornfields of Nebraska where, Randa, an earlier love interest, has promised an idyllic life on a farm.

On the road, Girl befriends a Christian punk rocker and a stripper. Next she falls into a kinky threesome with a poet and her husband. She's also a thief. It's what she does.

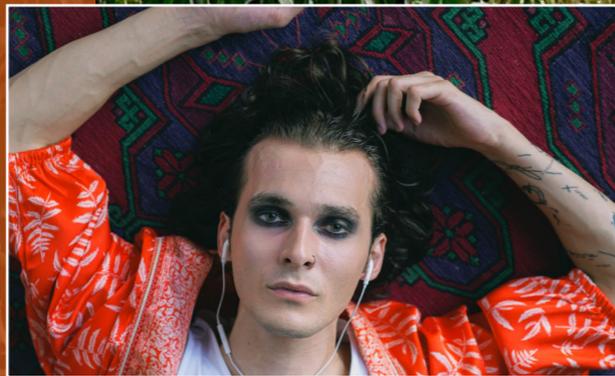
Once in Nebraska, she revels in working the fields, but the romantic reunion does not go well, and when the police find the car she stole to get there, Girl is on the run. She looks for her mother's roots and ends up stranded in South Dakota. Randa leaves her with two parting gifts — a beating and a gun.

On her birthday, Girl is talked out of killing herself by a local teenager. She heads for Memphis, robs a gas station, is arrested and beaten in jail. Angus rescues her but she's broken and disillusioned. San Francisco and Granddad call her back. She's home and has lived to see 18, the age her mother never reached.

# People

## ANGUS, 17

A flamboyant queer street hustler who enjoys being adored by generous older men. He dreams of being a star.



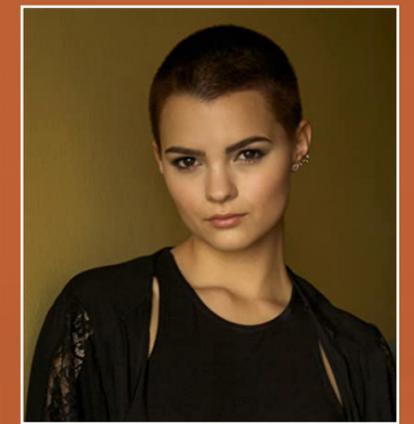
## RANDA, 20s

A masculine lesbian from the Midwest who more than anything wants to work a farm and is willing to pursue a bachelor farmer with land to get it. She is conflicted about her attraction to women and capable of violence. Like Girl, she also struggles to find her place in the world.



## GRANDAD, 60

An old San Francisco hippie. He's done his best to raise Girl after her mother dies and her father moves away to start another family. A former drug user and political activist.



Suggested cast:  
Brianna Hildebrand  
Brigette Lundy-Paine  
Joey King

## GIRL, 17

A tattooed, androgynous/gender non-conforming, tender-hearted punk looking for a place to belong. Trying to come to terms with her mother's suicide, she longs to find some peace and stability.

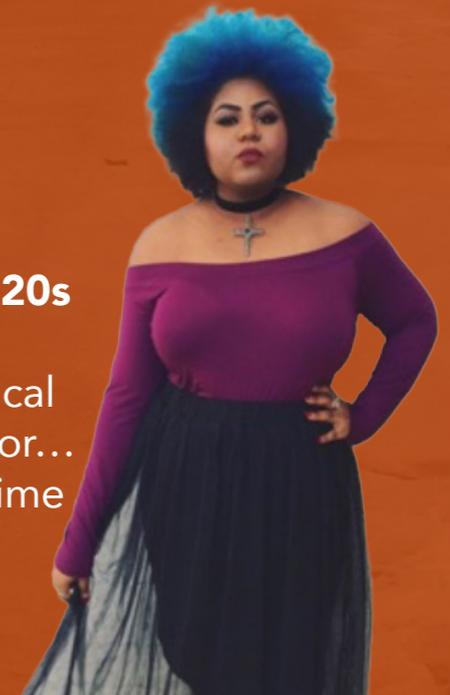


## JOEY, 20s

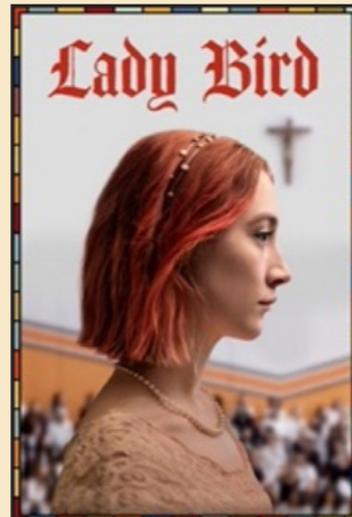
A Christian punk drummer.

## JESSIKA, 20s

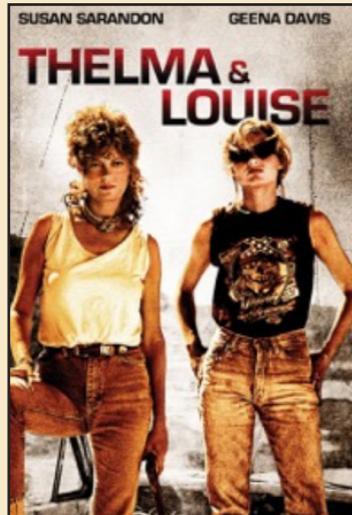
A colorful, philosophical road warrior... and part-time stripper.



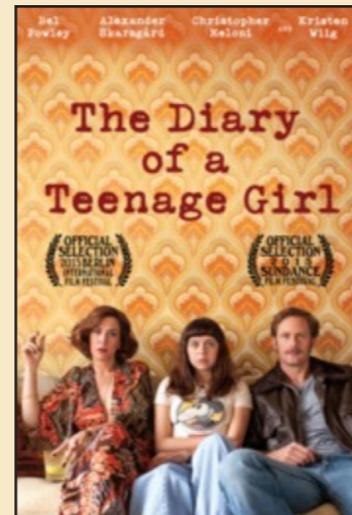
# Feel it



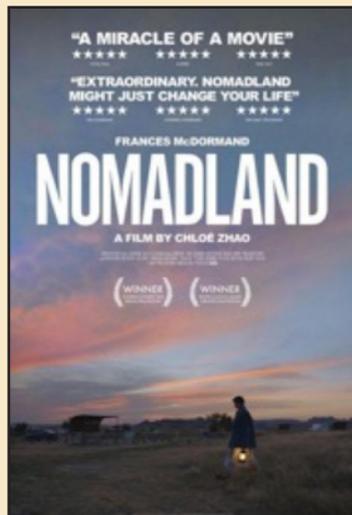
AWARDS  
5 Oscar noms  
119 wins  
223 noms



AWARDS  
1 Oscar  
23 wins  
50 noms



AWARDS  
16 wins  
37 noms



AWARDS  
13 Oscars  
230 wins  
139 noms



AWARDS  
5 wins  
1 nom

## AUDIENCE

Under 40's in search of a bad-ass, in-your-face female hero. Nostalgic punks. LGBTQ+ youth, urban and rural. The novel found a home with teens, Christian seekers, older bohemians, rebels of all stripes and to this day the book is taught in college classrooms.

## TONE

A rough, dangerous ride against a backdrop of farmland and prairie sunsets. Quiet moments of self-revelation, similar to both LADYBIRD and THE DIARY OF A TEENAGE GIRL. The audience won't be spared from the breakneck pace of Girl's travels as she stays just one step ahead of the law. Think THELMA & LOUISE meets GUTTERBUG.

## VISUAL STYLE

Visceral and transformative. It begins with the pulse of urban streets, then western highways will lead to wide-open plains, abandoned farm towns, fertile cornfields and easy blue skies — akin to NOMADLAND. Landscape projects the characters' psychology: sweeping cinematography is key.

# The existing IP

Kate Braverman, Poet and Novelist

"Katia Noyes writes with compelling authority. Her eye for detail and landscape extend to her 17-year-old heroine's interior, a vividly rendered region of unexpected exile and vulnerability. This isn't a snapshot from the edge, but a sophisticated dissection of our country at the millennium."

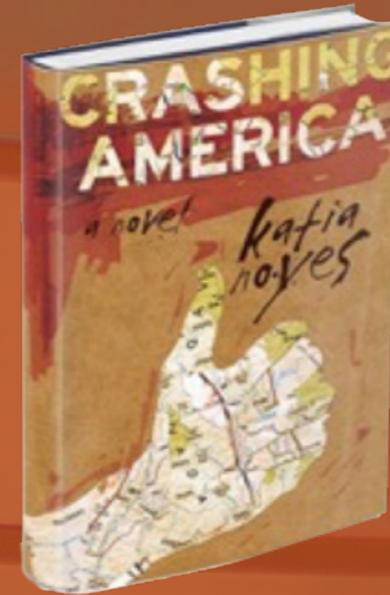
Melissa McDonough,  
American Booksellers Association

"A road trip in reverse: a San Francisco gutter punk travels east to the heartland, the Great Plains. Girl, the gender queer narrator, would give Kerouac a run for his money. Noyes' story and characters are fresh, tough, and, well, very sweet, somehow..."

"An amazing book." - Q Television  
Network

"I'm madly in love with this fearless  
queer adventure."  
- Michelle Tea

"Might be the Great American Novel."  
- Curve Magazine



"A post-gay  
coming-of-age  
story as  
contemporary  
as it is timeless"  
- Out Magazine,  
October 2005

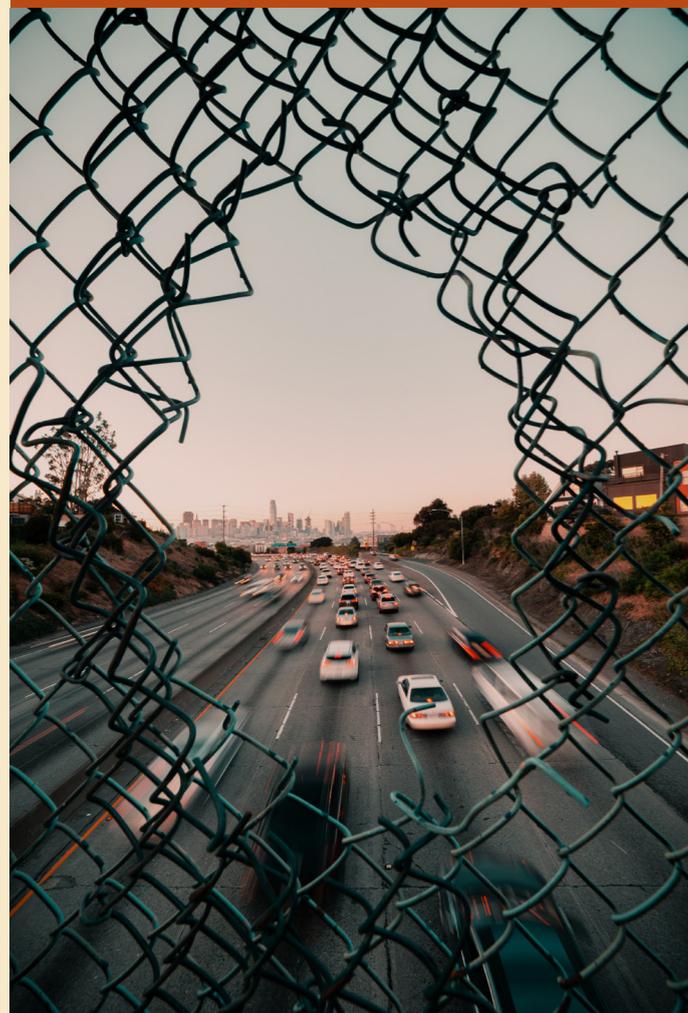
CRASHING AMERICA is based on  
a book of the same title published  
in 2005.

Immediately after its debut, the book  
was deemed an Independent  
Booksellers Notable and shortlisted  
by Amazon as a Best LGBT Book of  
the Year. Regarded as one of the best  
books of the year by UK's Libertas and  
Rainbow Network UK, Crashing  
America was a Lambda Literary Award  
Finalist. The American Library  
Association chose it as a  
recommended book for young adults,  
and Alexander Street Press included it  
in an academic database of landmark  
LGBTQ+ literature.

"One of the Ten Best Gay/Lesbian  
Books of 2005"  
- Amazon.com



# Need to know



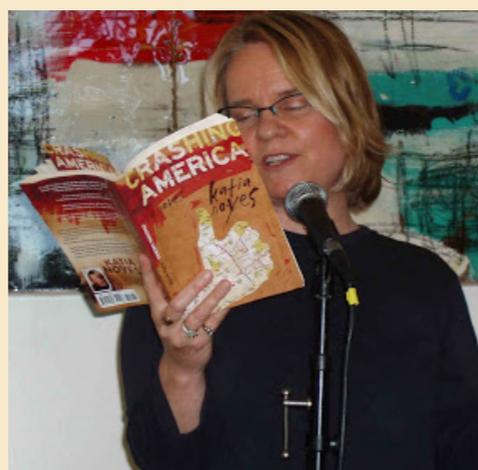
## CRASHING AMERICA



## Kip Pearson

is a San Francisco Bay Area writer and producer. *Crashing America* is her third feature screenplay. Her storytelling is focused on creating strong female/LGBTQ+ character driven narratives.

Kip's first feature script, *JACKIE RAE*, won Best Original Script in the 2020 Hollywood Women's Institute Film Festival, was a Finalist in Circus Road and Red Flight screenplay competitions and placed in a number of other festivals. Her feature script, *NORTH BEACH NOIR*, is also winning laurels on the festival circuit, including The Crime List, LA Crime and Horror Fest, Marina Del Rey, Burbank and Pasadena Film Festivals.  
Contact info: [kspcal@comcast.net](mailto:kspcal@comcast.net)



## Katia Noyes

has worked as a roofer, algebra tutor, arts journalist, content developer, choreographer, hospital storyteller, and currently editing for private clients and writing lots of poetry. *CRASHING AMERICA* is her first novel. Like *Girl*, she left home early, got arrested for Being Beyond Parental Control, and ended up relying on her own inner resources.

For the story, she drew from her experiences with other kids, her volunteer work at a LGBTQ+ youth center, and the stories of farmers and teens she met on her research trip through the backlands of late 90s America. In her travels she found people just as rootless and dislocated as those in San Francisco—but also just as determined to make a life for themselves.

