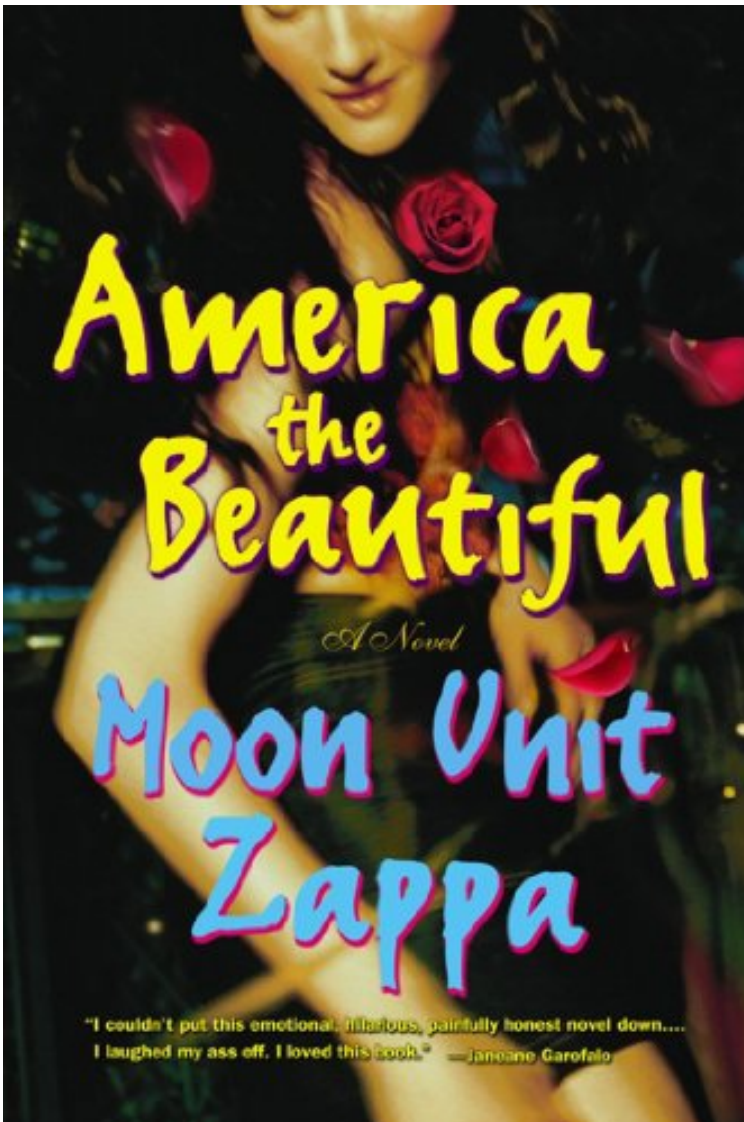


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# America the Beautiful: A Novel (English Edition)



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**Description :** Description du produit America Throne is living the good life in L.A. Her career is sprouting, and she is in love -- with Jasper Husch, a sexy-sultry artist from San Fran. But just as soon as they've realized domestic bliss, Jasper has a change of heart, and America falters on the slippery slope of hope: hoping that he will come back, hoping that new sex will erase all evidence of him, and hoping that in nurturing a truce with her dead father she will make peace with all men. America's trip from self-destruction to wholeness is a romp on the wilder shores of the West Coast. From a dodgy therapist to a silent retreat, America Throne's "aha" moment culminates with, "While we are all busy swimming upstream, the universe is conspiring to take us to something better." In America the Beautiful, Moon Zappa has taken the broken-heart story and given it a twist all her own through the emotional honesty and edginess of America Throne.

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Presentation de l'auteur *America Throne* is living the good life in L.A. Her career is sprouting, and she is in love -- with Jasper Husch, a sexy-sultry artist from San Fran. But just as soon as they've realized domestic bliss, Jasper has a change of heart, and America falters on the slippery slope of hope: hoping that he will come back, hoping that new sex will erase all evidence of him, and hoping that in nurturing a truce with her dead father she will make peace with all men. America's trip from self-destruction to wholeness is a romp on the wilder shores of the West Coast. From a dodgy therapist to a silent retreat, America Throne's "aha" moment culminates with, "While we are all busy swimming upstream, the universe is conspiring to take us to something better." In *America the Beautiful*, Moon Zappa has taken the broken-heart story and given it a twist all her own through the emotional honesty and edginess of *America Throne*. Hailed as "brilliant" (Sunday Telegraph Magazine), *America the Beautiful* is the debut of an unforgettable and unfaltering new voice. [www.americathrone.com](http://www.americathrone.com) America Throne's relationship with her boyfriend Jasper was heading for a happy ending: I thought, my God, soon we will probably be married ... I imagined our children, a boy and a girl each with his long limbs and caffeine-free groundedness and maybe my hair and aesthetic. But it wasn't to be. Jasper ended the relationship by fax while on a business trip to San Francisco: "Please don't call me. I have entered another room. Love always. Jasper Husch". *America the Beautiful*, the first novel from Moon Unit Zappa, deals with the emotional fallout from this break-up. The traumatised 29-year-old America, buoyed up by her good friend Sadie, sets out on a voyage of self-discovery as her plummeting self-esteem forces her to assess the impact of her unconventional upbringing, the death of her famous father, and her ability to cope with loss. There's the requisite therapy and eccentric characters--this is LA, after all--and the overall result is a narrative of emotional honesty shot through with quirky humour. America shares more than an unusual moniker with her creator, Moon Unit Zappa. Both live in LA (with their dogs) and both have famous fathers--in America's case the fictional painter Boris Throne and for Moon Unit the "Mother of Invention" musician Frank Zappa. They may well have more in common, so convincingly are America's emotions conveyed: With Sadie's help, I could do it. The new plan was to make him come to me. He'd have to sweat out me not calling him. I climbed back into bed. "Jasper, it's me, are you there? No? Ok, I love you." *America the Beautiful* is a surprisingly accomplished novel from a new author which adds new insights to well-trodden ground. --Christina McLoughlin From Publishers Weekly Skeptics, prepare for a surprise: this is an energetic and mostly entertaining debut, a novel only Moon Unit Zappa could have written. The novel concerns one America Throne, the opinionated daughter of famous avant-garde artist Boris Throne: she's funny, she's familiar with self-pity, she's looking for love and she's dealing with "how difficult it is to be hippie royalty AND try to find your own identity in the shadow of a certifiable self-made 'genius.'" For those who haven't heard of Zappa's father, Frank, the legendary composer and front man of the Mothers of Invention, it's pointless to attempt to explain him here. But the biographical parallels are obvious enough that it's unclear whether Zappa really wants readers to believe America is a fictional character. The novel reads like an obsessive, bipolar journal of disaster and heartache: America is dumped by her artist boyfriend, Jasper, which launches her on a hell-bent roller-coaster ride of self-loathing and self-discovery. Her aggrandized notion of her own hardships is often patently hilarious: "we drove past a mural of anguished faces and raised fists... Rosa Parks, Malcolm X, Che Guevara, Gandhi, and that guy with all the grapes. They knew what I was talking about." It's hard not to enjoy America's attitude and observational powers, but the novel is also exasperatingly self-indulgent: song lyrics open every chapter, and too often they're inexcusably facile choices like " `Why?' Annie Lennox" or "Hooray for Hollywood" Author Unknown" (that would be Johnny Mercer, by the way). Although the novel lacks any real perspective on America's repeated falls from grace, her giddy highs and crushing lows make for a refreshingly honest and eye-opening read. Agent, Jimmy Vines. (Sept.) Forecast: This title is sure to catch the eye of its young, female target market few novels, after all, score blurbs from Alanis Morissette and Janeane Garofalo. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.