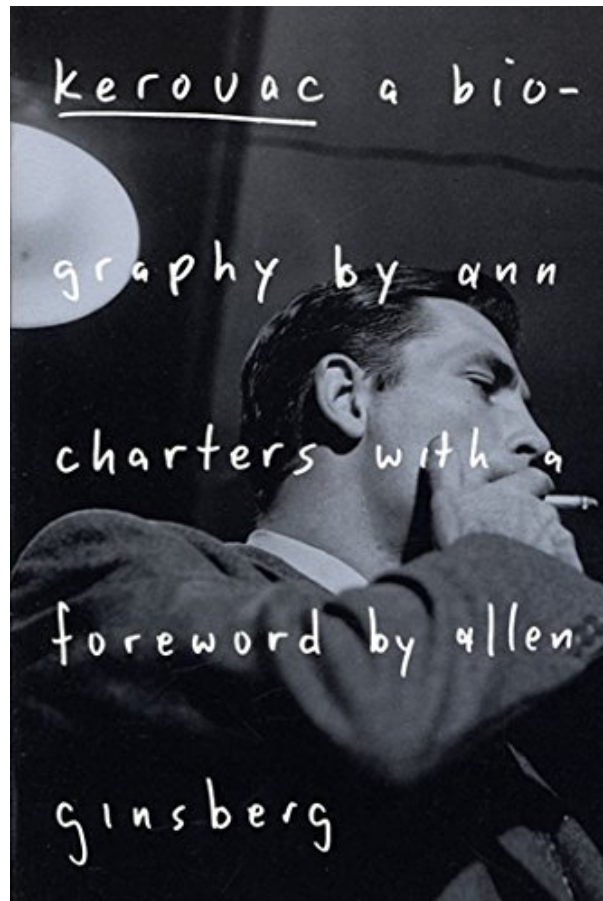
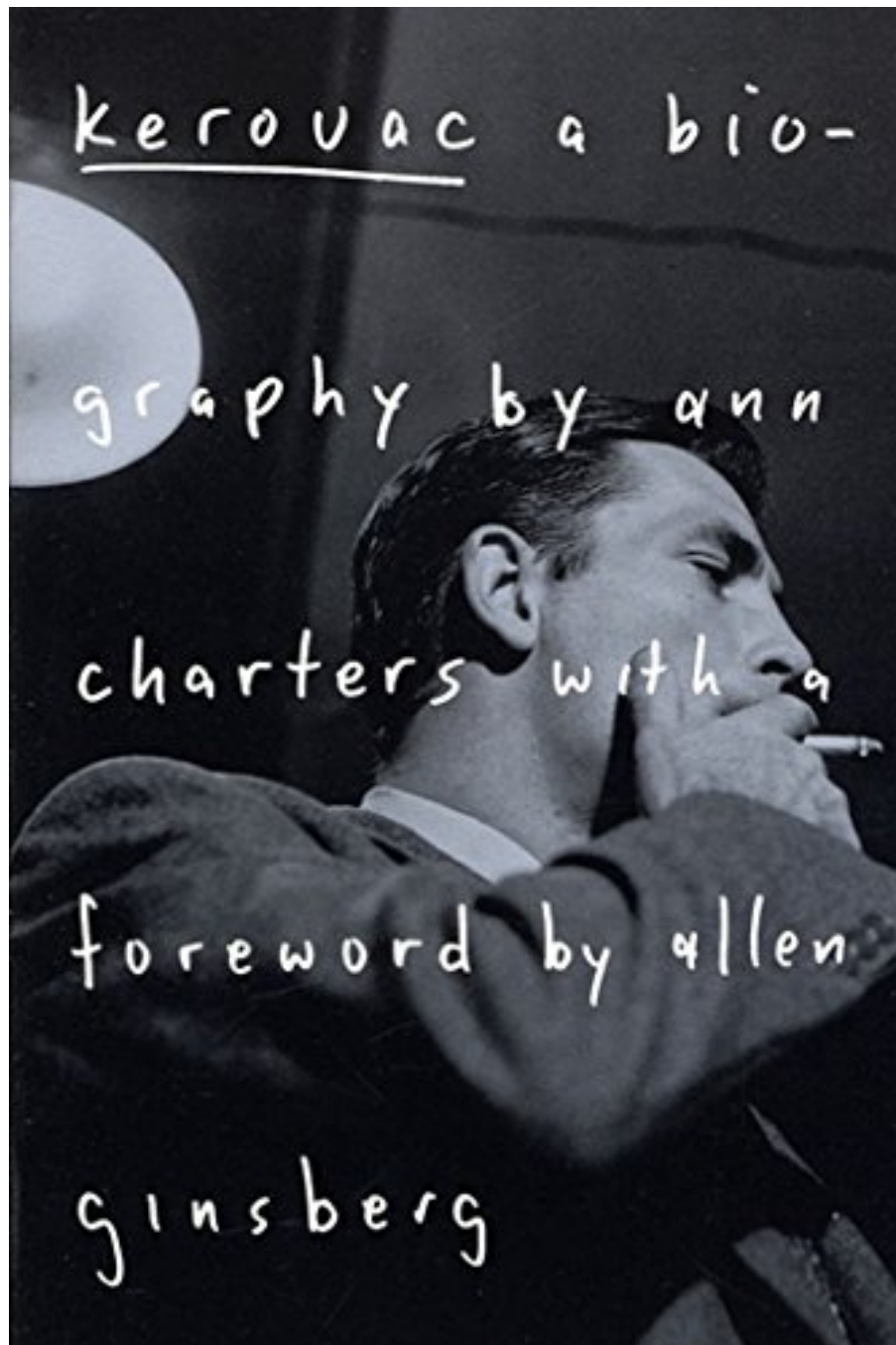


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Review

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From the Back Cover

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About the Author

Ann Charters received her B.A. at Berkeley and her Ph.D. at Columbia. She first met Kerouac at a poetry reading in Berkeley in 1956, and compiled a comprehensive bibliography of his work in 1967. A professor of English at the University of Connecticut, she is also the editor of *Selected Letters of Jack Kerouac* and the *Portable Kerouac Reader*, and the author of *Beats and Company: Portrait of a Literary Generation*.

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19 of 21 people found the following review helpful.

I couldn't put this down

By A Customer

While in college, I had to do a paper on "On The Road" and after reading it, I became absolutely fascinated with Jack Kerouac. I got this book out of the library one day. I think it is excellent. It documents Kerouac's whole life from birth to death and gives the reader a wonderful insight into the "real" Jack Kerouac. I literally could not put this down.

11 of 14 people found the following review helpful.

A Biography Worth the Read!

By Patrick Julian Cassidy

Ms. Charters did a commendable job putting together this book. I would rate it right up there with Nicosia's bio. The author certainly provided a lot of background info and did a compelling job of helping me get a better understanding of the social climate which Kerouac & friends had to contend with and conquer. My only complaint is that her writing style sometimes lapses into a style a little too closely allied with that of her subject, but given the subject matter, that is understandable. I would recommend this book for those of you who have found Kerouac's writings to be enjoyable.

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Time For A New Biography

By greenhornet

Although there's quite a few bio's of Jack out there, it's unfortunate that the majority of them are sub standard. I read this decades ago and remembered it fondly, but a careful re-reading has brought out all the defects. Charters evidently couldn't quote from the sources, so what remains is a botch of a biography. There's really nothing here substantial, and Charters is reduced to re-wording the books... She also has the ingratiating habit of putting herself in quite a few scenes. Yet she's the only one of Kerouac's many biographers that actually met the man, and her telling of meeting him to do his bibliography is a good representation of the mans sad later years. Thus the need to repeat head-shaking incidents, ad nauseam, is avoided... Kerouac's wife Stella and his mother weren't happy with the first edition of this book, as it reported that Jack's sister Nin committed suicide (the woman died of a heart attack). Nicosia's is the far better bio, but it sags under its own bloated grandiosity. Brinkley was supposed to the Authorized Biography, but evidently that fell through. I feel his would've been the best. But we'll never know.

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