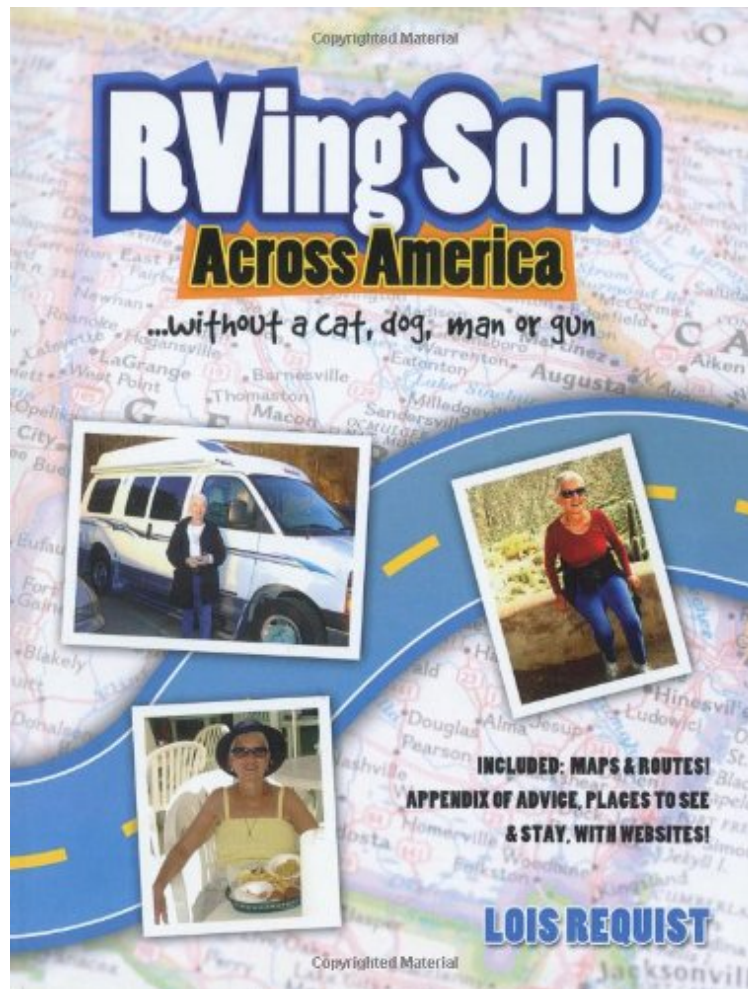


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## R Ving Solo Across America . . . without a cat, dog, man, or gun

*Lois Requist*

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**Lois Requist : R Ving Solo Across America . . . without a cat, dog, man, or gun** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised R Ving Solo Across America . . . without a cat, dog, man, or gun:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Good reading, but next revision the politics should be left out of the book! By Nita Streetman I am one thrid through the book, and already the author has made five politicas digs against my political party. By putting political statements in a book, one automatically alienates about half the American people. I hope the author will leave her political preferences out of the book the next time she revises it. I feel like she slaps me in the face each time she says something against my political choice, or in favor of her political views, in the book. BUT OVERALL, I am enjoying the book, and getting some great ideas for when I start my travels as a single woman. I might even take the same path she took across the U.S. because she makes it sound so inviting, It's worth

reading. 10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Boring, overpriced diary of an ill-prepared traveler  
By Prairie Gal  
Enticed by its terrific title and intriguing premise, I bought this book. The first couple of pages were interesting, but it was all downhill from there. The author, Lois Requist, admits she wasn't paying close attention when the RV dealer spent a scant hour demonstrating how to operate the systems of her new conversion van. A follow-up lesson in the driveway with her son and daughter-in-law apparently didn't help much either. Thus, big chunks of this story concern her inability to deal with the rig's water supply, furnace, electrical power and so on. Her constant complaints become tiresome. And despite the time she supposedly spent planning and researching her trip, she's frequently dismayed to discover that a place where she's camping is too remote for her to stroll into town, or that a drive of X miles between stopovers takes many more hours than she imagined. Most of this book reads like a letter home that would put even her closest relatives to sleep. A typical entry: "I arrived at [name of site], which is [descriptive phrase straight out of a tourist brochure]. I ate a lunch of [list of menu items] at a little caf and met a nice man, and we talked for three hours about our families." Requist claims she went in search of the real America, but comments throughout the book reveal otherwise. She gripes that she gave up listening to local radio stations while driving since they're mostly devoted to talk shows, religion, and country music. Umm, yeah, that WOULD be the real America, and isn't that what you said you wanted? In another entry, she expresses delight at finding someone she considers her intellectual equal...because that woman reads New Yorker magazine. Requist's frequent, irrelevant swipes at anything beyond her narrow political views make it clear that this trip is more about finding pretty scenery than exposing herself to new experiences. Requist also tosses off random observations without bothering to check them before publication. For instance, she says Frank Lloyd Wright designed "Falling Waters in Wisconsin." The home is actually called Fallingwater (one word, no "s"), and it's in Pennsylvania. Again, the lack of attention to detail reads like an off-the-cuff letter to the family at home, rather than an account worthy of professional publication. "RVing Solo" is way overpriced. A comparable trade paperback of this length would normally list for \$15 or less. Given the lack of quality, this one's barely worth \$5. For a much better account of a cross-country trip in a conversion van, check out "Live Your Road Trip Dream" by Phil and Carol White. Not only does that book give an interesting account of this couple's year-long trip across America, it provides an excellent guide to preparing for such a trip. Too bad Lois Requist didn't read it before she left home. In stark contrast to Requist's close-minded views, the Whites are open to everything they encounter in the local scene - including regional radio, politics and the like. And despite mechanical setbacks and a medical emergency, they maintain a delightful roll-with-the-punches attitude that's so refreshing after Requist's constant carping. After reading the Whites' book, you'll be eager for a cross-country adventure. If you read Requist's book, you'll want to crawl under a rock.  
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Not what I expected.  
By happy pet owner  
I was expecting to read more about the camper and how she handled that, the driving, hook ups, etc. This is like a diary of sight seeing and visiting.

A 66-year old woman takes a solo trip across America for ten months. Over one hundred pictures and her personal perspective make up the book, plus lots of tips for others. Appendix includes route and recommendations of places to stay and things to see.