



BIRDENWHEEL

A Novel by
Lindsay Rice

Birdenwheel features an ensemble cast of characters in the 1990s who follow the iconic rock band, The Grateful Dead, on their summer tour. Devon Maxwell, ex-con and Deadhead, longs to be a father to his seven-year-old daughter, twenty-something Rowen avoids his own grief after his mom's death, and teenager, Cass, is lured into the scene, defying her mom.

Meanwhile, Rowen's grandmother tracks the mystery of an old quilt hanging on the wall of her remote New Mexico cabin. She connects with her musical ancestor from 1890s Appalachia who traveled the country looking for work and directs his influence toward her grandson. As the summer tour progresses, Cass becomes key for Rowen to feel and deal with his grief, and Devon protects his daughter before he can fly away.

Stories that seem unrelated in the beginning turn out to be connected in surprising ways as the book reaches its climax. The ties between these characters are just as deep and mystical as the bonds between dancing strangers in the thrall of great music. Deadheads will connect to the scene and settings of *Birdenwheel*, and all readers will connect to the humanity of the characters.

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20th Century Historical Fiction,
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"[Rice] knows the music, she has the vocabulary, she communicates the 'vibe.' But added to that experience is a rich literary background, a beautiful writing style, an ability to create memorable characters across generations, and the imagination and skill to bring those characters together in unexpected, and sometimes mind-blowing, ways. In other words, this is a great novel, no Grateful Dead qualifier necessary. Five Stars."

—Sherry Ruskin, Goodreads



Lindsay Rice is a writer, tutor, and Deadhead. Lindsay studied poetry and fiction at The University of Iowa and draws inspiration from her travels and love of music. *Birdenwheel* is her first novel and encompasses magical realism and historical fiction. Lindsay is the past president of nonprofit Whispering Prairie Press in Kansas City, MO, and currently resides in the mountains of Colorado. For speaking engagements, media or bulk orders, contact: birdenwheel@gmail.com
