



# Frantic Transmissions to and from Los Angeles: An Accidental Memoir

*Kate Braverman*

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Kate Braverman grew up in Los Angeles in the late 1950s at the time when glitz was just beginning to be manufactured. Her Los Angeles was made up of stucco tenements, welfare, and the marginalized. It wasn't a destination city, it was the end of the line.

*Frantic Transmissions to and from Los Angeles* chronicles the trajectory of Braverman's Left Coast generation with a voice of singular power. She was an antiwar activist in Berkeley, a punk-rock poet on Sunset Strip, a single mother in the East L.A. barrio, and a woman in recovery at AA meetings in Beverly Hills. By 1990 she was married and settled into a life of writing and teaching. In her forties, Braverman did the unthinkable and moved from Beverly Hills to New York's Allegheny Mountains to a 150-year-old farmhouse.

In wide-ranging transmissions, Braverman deftly contrasts the social histories of Los Angeles with her new, timeless rural community; describes the effects of the changing seasons on her Californian, sun-drenched soul; and marvels at how a remote farmhouse can offer surprising consolations.

*Library Journal* calls Braverman a "literary genius"; *Rolling Stone* describes her as having the "power and intensity you don't see much outside of rock and roll." *Frantic Transmissions to and from Los Angeles* offers an eccentric and insightful view of social and individual transformation.

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