

# WISDOM And Nonsense

My Adventures as a Train Rider  
and Hobo Queen



Julianna Porrazzo-Ray  
"Minneapolis Jewel"

## WISDOM and NONSENSE My Adventures as a Train Rider and Hobo Queen

In 1979 at the age of 30, Julianna Porrazzo gave herself the hobo moniker of "Minneapolis Jewel" and hopped her first freight train to ride to Britt, Iowa, to attend the National Hobo Convention. She would take this trip every year for the next 40 years, becoming fully part of the hobo family, meeting gritty, one-of-a-kind individuals (one she even married), and being elected Queen of the Hobos five times. *Wisdom and Nonsense* is the story of her train rides, hobo friendships, adventures, and tragedy.

### Praise for *Wisdom and Nonsense*

Minneapolis Jewel has lived her life with a marvelous spirit of adventure. She always accepts the good with the bad and has the biggest, caring, giving heart of anyone I know.... Her book is an enjoyable, entertaining, and inspiring read.

—Connecticut Shorty, National Hobo Queen 1992–1993

Minneapolis Jewel is one of the most charismatic and kind members of the hobo family. ..As a 5-time National Hobo Queen, she has done so much to keep alive the history of the American Hobo, and to promote our National Hobo Museum and the City of Britt, IA. Her life has always been committed to helping others, and her stories are truly one of a kind!

—Ryan Arndorfer, Mayor  
City of Britt

### About the Author

Julianna Porrazzo-Ray, "Minneapolis Jewel," lives by the railroad tracks in Minneapolis, where she tends her wildflower yard and 25-year-old grapevines. She has attended the National Hobo Convention in Britt, Iowa, for 41 consecutive years (including five reigns as National Queen of the Hobos) and was featured in the April 2019 issue of *Smithsonian* magazine, in "The Last of the Great American Hobos." She plans to continue attending the Hobo Convention until she catches the Westbound.

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