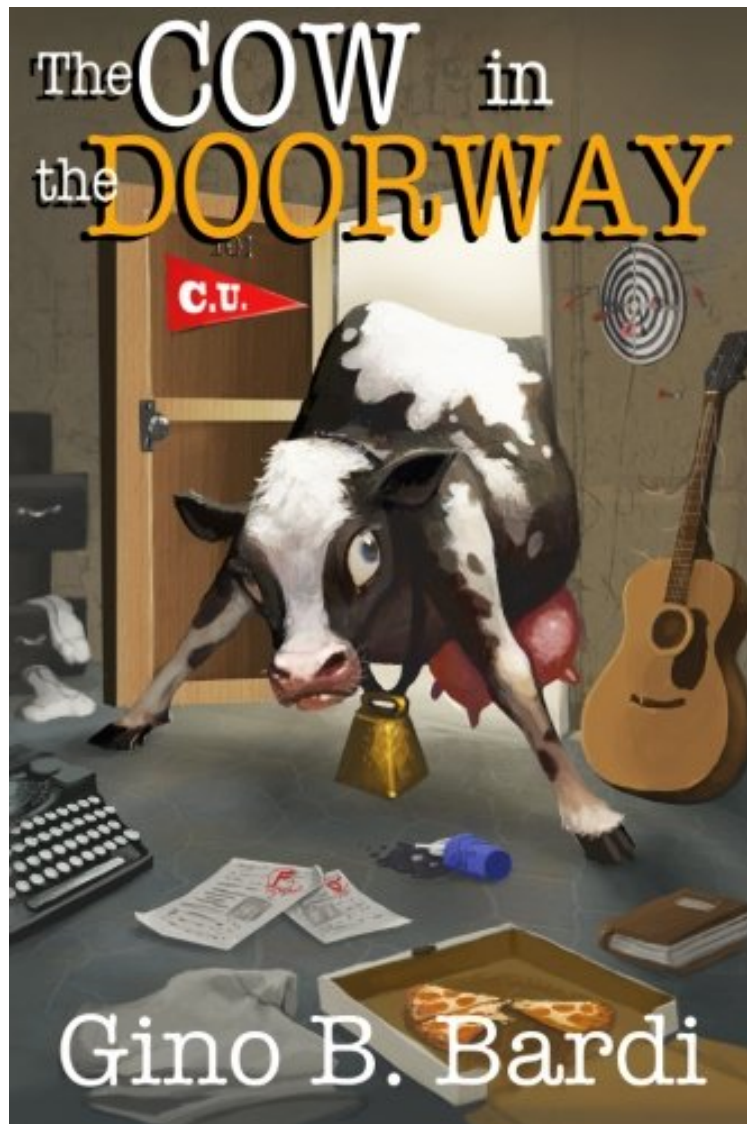


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The Cow in the Doorway

Gino B. Bardi

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Gino B. Bardi : The Cow in the Doorway before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Cow in the Doorway:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. How Now Stoned Cow?By Richard GoffmanNobody who knows Tony Vitelli not his angry roommate, not his disapproving father, not the cop on whose shoes he drunkenly pukes, not the wacky cast of characters that people this hilarious satire of college life in the 60s, not even Tony himself would bet a nickel on him lasting even a single semester, let alone losing his virginity.Everybody can see whats wrong with Tony

hes inexperienced, hes lazy, hes frightened, hes nave, hes without any strong beliefs other than the belief that if he doesnt succeed in college his father will kill him, and hes as horny as, well, as a virginal college freshman. He wanted to go to a less prestigious, less challenging college than Cornell, but his parents were having none of it. Armed with nothing but a self-deprecating sense of humor and a deep-seated sense of romance, Tony arrives on campus at the precise moment Fall of 1968 when the tumultuous forces of history and the winds of change are swirling, placing the youth of America Tonys generation at the epicenter of the world. The times, indeed, are a-changing, which may or may not be a good thing for this green freshman from the suburbs of Long Island. What are the chances that somebody, preferably a beautiful female somebody, will see whats right with him? Readers of *Cow in the Doorway* find themselves riding a wave of hilarity and poignant romance with an unlikely yet somehow irresistible hero. Catch the wave. Richard Goffman, Author of *Heartless Cruelty* and *Laid So Low*

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Coming of Age in the '60s By Jean Gogolin In the introduction to *Cow in the Doorway* author Gino Bardi says his novel is about what happens as you wander around in life, trying to find your way, and indeed it is. *Cow in the Doorway* takes place at Cornell University during the tumultuous 1960s, the era of the Vietnam War and the Peacenik. Funny, smart-alecky, and sometimes sad, *Cow* lets us stand next to Tony Vitelli when he enters Cornell a nave boy, meets a militant black roommate named Clarence; makes friends with Country Bob, Gordon and Steve the Freak, and falls in love with the beautiful Melissa, who sweeps into his life like a breaking wave . . . and leaves him just as suddenly. Along the way, we watch Tony play Bob Dylan songs on his 12-string guitar in the echo chamber of Cornells Annabel Taylor Hall, swig Genny Cream Ale, get tear gassed at an anti-war rally, bail his right-wing father out of a small-town jail, and stand bereft on a suspension bridge over the Fall River Creek. Finally, were there when he finds love where he never expected it. *Cow in the Doorway* youll have to read it to find out why its called that -- is alternately hilarious and heartbreaking, about a time that seems like it must have been fun only in retrospect. Just ask Tony.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A magic carpet ride! Funny, engaging, true to life story for young and old By Customer I started this book not knowing what to expect. The intriguing title and cover graphic didn't give much of a hint, although I was pretty sure I'd seen that messy dorm room many times during my early '70s college years. Well, I started chuckling on page one and didn't stop until the final paragraph. More than once those chuckles turned into full-fledged LOLs. But this book wasn't written just for laughs. In *Tony*, Gino Bardi beautifully portrays the hopes, dreams and insecurities of every college freshman, along with the dumb decisions that inevitably impart significant life lessons. As Tony made more than his fair share of those stupid moves, with the wisdom of adult hindsight I wanted to strangle him - but at the same time I couldn't wait to see what trouble he got himself into next. And Tony did not disappoint on that front. The diverse cast of characters brought me right back to those crazy times, when you'd meet someone weirder than weird and accept them as perfectly normal. I especially enjoyed Steve the Freak, whose every utterance cracked me up. And thank God for Country Bob, whose common sense rescued Tony from himself more than once. By the time Tony reaches the end of spring semester, it's a pleasure to see him starting to mature a little. Looks like he just might make it to sophomore standing. I for one hope that Gino Bardi doesn't stop here. It would be great to read sequels down the road to find out what comes Tony's way as a sophomore, junior, senior . . . maybe even grad school!

Cornell University, Ithaca New York, 1968: The barking megaphones of the antiwar protests never seem to shut up. The cafeteria food is awful and the coffee even worse. Tony Vitelli doesn't feel properly dressed without a STRIKE! T-shirt and an Iron Butterfly album under his arm. He can't see the top of his desk for all the books and papers. And his new roommate won't acknowledge his existence. Tony's first year at college is a complicated and bumpy ride. And very, very funny. But, as in real life, it's not all fun and games. Before his first year is finished, Tony is called a racist, a drunkard, a lousy guitar player, and worse, a lousy lover his first time at bat! Soon he's holding his failure notice, waiting for his dad to kick him out of the family, and waiting to be drafted any minute. Then he learns a close friend has been lost to the Vietnam War, and Tony must get his sh*t together in a big hurry. But there is one big issue he must confront. Once "the cow is out of the doorway," he gets just what he needs...and something he WANTS. Enroll along with Tony, in a semester of hilarity!