

Welcome to Thelma Rea's

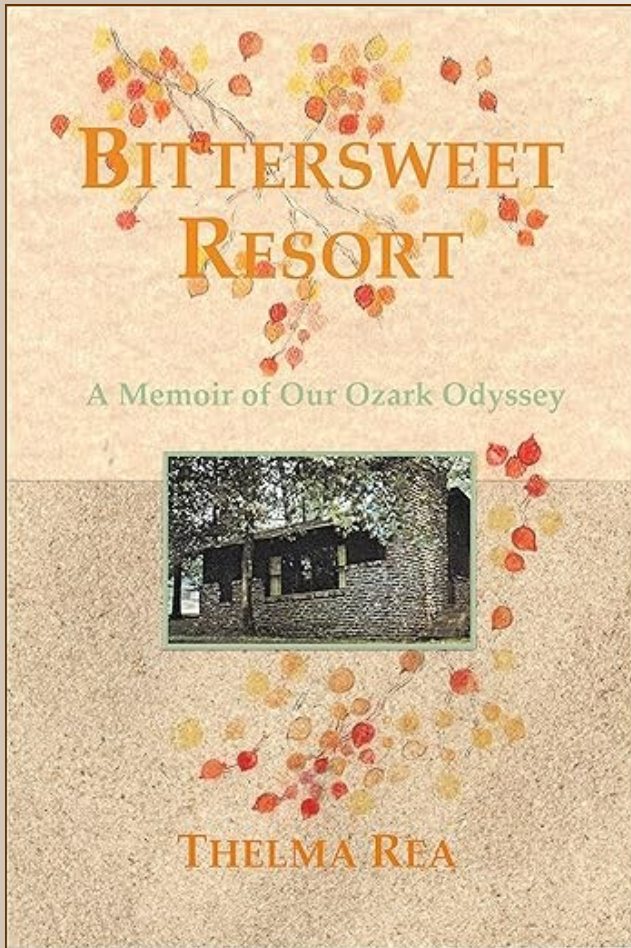
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Thelma Rea



Bittersweet Resort is a warm, funny memoir about the eleven years Dick and Thelma Rea survived the Ozarks. In 1971 they bought nine run-down cottages on Table Rock Lake and rented them out for \$11 to \$17 a day. Meet their memorable neighbors, including the man who kept his dead mother in a Kenmore freezer for 56 days, trying to resurrect her.

Follow the escapades of their guests: many are hilarious, some bittersweet, and a few tragic. Experience the awakening of a backward mountain country, brought to life by an amazing chain of five lakes straddling Missouri and Arkansas, built by the Corps of Engineers. Visit Branson before it became a country music phenomenon.

This is a story of transformation. The Rea children adapt to a school built by the WPA in 1936—a one-hour bus ride from their remote home. Dick progresses from New York City executive to carpenter/plumber/man-of-all-trades. Thelma steers the neglected resort into a popular destination. Take this journey with them. Travel back to a simpler time. You'll wish you had been a guest at Bittersweet Resort.

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