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PAPERBACKS

By Andrew Johnston

WYOMING TRAIL

Cheryl Moskowitz

Granta £9.99, pp234

American-born, London-based writer Cheryl Moskowitz's first novel is a bittersweet coming-of-age story. After Francine's terminally selfish father is lured from late-Sixties Seattle to swinging London by the promise of everything 'groovy', the rest of the family follows only to run into more of what they had back home, draped this time in hippie self-justification.

As the family falls apart, Francine is left to find her own way through the confusion of love and disappointment she faces. She is a likeable, unforgettable character, in whom child, adolescent and adult struggle with each other and with memory's deceptions. *Wyoming Trail* attempts much more than most novels in its fearless plunge into the deep pool of family, and one surfaces at its end startled by the psychological veracity Moskowitz has achieved.