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#3132126 in Books University Press of Mississippi 2009-03-23 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.70 x .60 x 10.80l, 1.75 #File Name: 1604730986112 pages | File size: 32.Mb

From Brand: University Press of Mississippi : Highway 51: Mississippi Hill Country before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Highway 51: Mississippi Hill Country:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book of photos and descriptions about Mississippi By J. Hodges I actually bought 2 of these books and I may end up buying more. I gave one as a birthday gift to my 88 yr old dad who spent many years living in towns along Highway 51. He is now telling us stories from the 1940's about all the places in the book. I will probably get one for my brother as we both sat in the back seat for many hours and many miles while our parents were up front on our way to/from our grandmother's house from the coast to Tallahatchie County before Interstate 55 was built. Gloria Norris did a great job not only with the photos, but in the descriptions that tell the history of this unforgettable route. Definitely a book for anyone with Mississippi roots! 0 of 4 people found the following review helpful. highway 51 - the road to nowhere By "phase out" received like new copy in mail yesterday. thumbed through it and threw it in the trash. boring unimaginative. how can this be considered a great piece of work by anyone other than one who likes to write reviews of praise and has never been personally exposed to the real? a total waste of purchase price. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. What a find! By Peter I. And what a beautiful and revealing volume! In a series of highly evocative photographs, it opens to the non-Mississippian another vanishing "backwater" of America, the hill country of Northern Mississippi, that turns out to be as culturally interesting and worthy of preservation as the South Walker Evans photographed decades ago and captured in Let Us Now Praise Famous Men. Any number of eminent Americans connect to Highway 51, the artery that runs from Memphis, Tennessee south through the hills to Jackson, Mississippi. So we see Eudora Welty's bedroom and William Faulkner's woods, but also echoes of bluegrass and blues and hillbilly, and the graffiti-ed tributes of fans on the wall

that surrounds Elvis' Graceland, and the Lorraine Motel where Martin Luther King was gunned down. And we are surprised and touched by the more "ordinary" and anonymous Mississippians, black and white, old and young, rich and poor, whose images and homes and houses of worship abound in this fascinating portrait of a much-traveled American road.

From the blue suede intonations of Elvis's Graceland in Memphis to the columnar austerity of mansions along State Street in Jackson, Highway 51 flows, an artery of commerce, music, and literary interchange. Highway 51 is the first photography book to focus on this storied route through Mississippi hill country, a defining but often overlooked region of the state. In ninety color photographs Gloria Norris captures the landmarks, the beautiful and rugged scenery, the people, and their unforgettable music. Her images serve as a confirmation of tradition in this part of Mississippi and as a reminder of what has changed forever. This road connects William Faulkner's fierce hill counties and Eudora Welty's resonant terrains, Elvis's hip-shaking boogies and R. L. Burnside's hypnotically grinding blues. Highway 51 depicts a natural world sometimes swept by violent tornadoes and rainstorms but dominated by rolling, green landscapes and a society that still lives close to the soil. In Norris's photographs, people and places reveal the many contradictions of life along this much-traveled path. With an introduction by Rick Bass, this volume offers a vision of a distinctive culture and setting that until now has been little documented.

From the Inside Flap Photographs that illuminate Mississippi's rich but underexposed terrain About the Author Gloria Norris's photographs are in the permanent collection of the Mississippi Museum of Art and many private collections. Her short stories set in Mississippi hill country have appeared in three O. Henry Short Story Awards annuals and her novel, *Looking for Bobby*, was set partly in this area. She served as editor-in-chief of the Book of the Month Club for many years. Rick Bass is the author of over twenty books, including essay collections, short story collections, novellas, and novels.