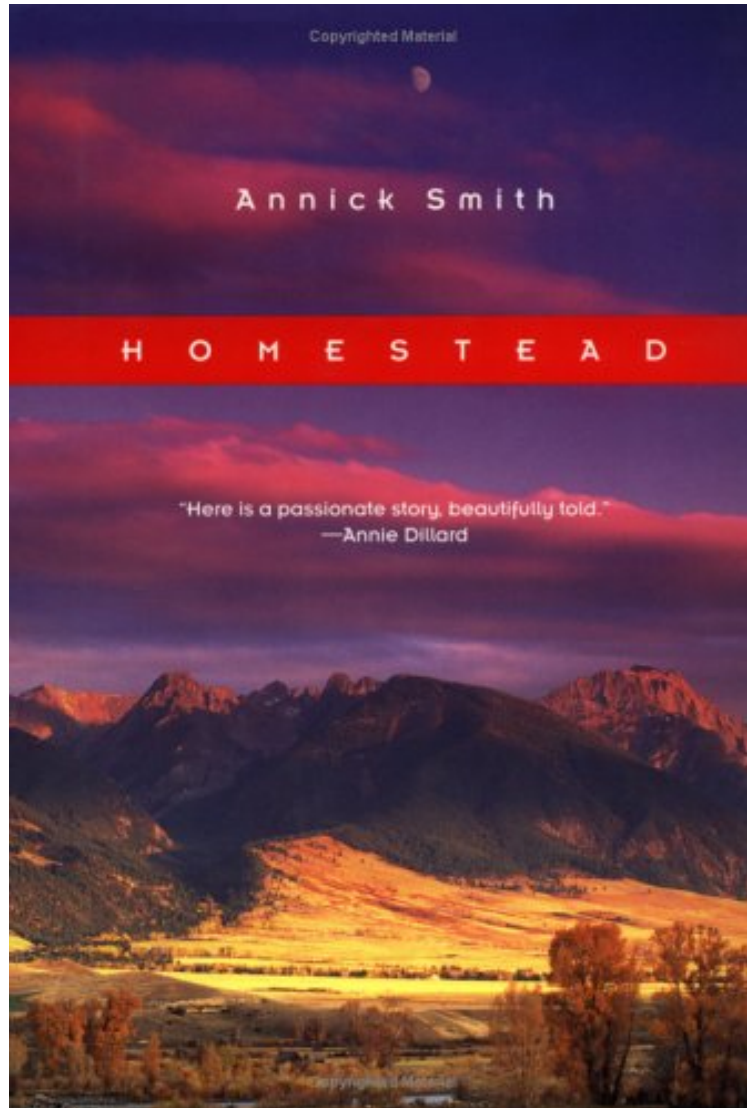


[Mobile library] Homestead (The World As Home)


Homestead (The World As Home)

Annick Smith

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Annick Smith : Homestead (The World As Home) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Homestead (The World As Home):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A tribute to Montana and its people By Timothy J. Bazzett I bought this book after reading an excerpt from it in another book, a collection of essays from OUTSIDE magazine. As it turned out, that particular essay is probably the best part of HOMESTEAD. Not that the rest of the book isn't good too, but Smith's writing shines the brightest, I think, when she is writing about her parents, her first husband and her children. I was also surprised to learn that her father was Stephen Deutch, who was THE photographer of the stars

back when I was a kid. I can remember his name in small print on many of the most famous film stars of the fifties. And one of Deutch's best friends was noted author Nelson Algren, still revered in Chicago, where Annick (Deutch) Smith grew up. There are many such connections here. Smith's long-time life partner since her first husband's early death from heart disease is another writer I admire, Bill Kittredge, whose memoir, *Hole in the Sky*, I read ten-plus years ago and much enjoyed. And I know that Kittredge was a pal of the late author, James Crumley, who isn't mentioned here, but I could almost feel his presence, nonetheless, as Smith tells her stories of gatherings of writers, artists and musicians over the past forty years in the bars and neighborhoods of the Missoula area where the liquor and conversation flowed freely. She tells too of her friendship with Norman Maclean, author of *A River Runs Through It*, and her part in bringing that story to the screen, working with Robert Redford, albeit too late for Maclean to see it. Her stories of the parties even intrigued me enough to go online and order a CD, *Armchair Cabaret*, from the website of one of Missoula's favorite bands, the Big Sky Mudflaps. I don't have it yet, so the jury's out on that element. The last few pieces of the book, in which she talks of trips and expeditions she made, alone or with Kittredge, to Europe and Alaska, did not interest me quite as much as the early part of the book. Although the quality of her writing is undiminished, these "filler" pieces gave the book a kind of uneven feel. In the end, the stories of her family, her large circle of friends, and the land where she has lived for over forty years, are the best. (I was reminded, while reading *Homestead*, of two other, younger Montana writers, husband and wife Tom and Jennifer Groneberg, also transplanted Chicagoans. Between them they have written three memoirs now: *The Secret Life of Cowboys*, *One Good Horse*, and *Road Map to Holland*. If you want a fascinating and heartfelt look at more recent, modern ranch life in Montana, try these.) I'm glad to have found and read Annick Smith's fine book about Montana and its charms. - Tim Bazzett, author of *PINHEAD: A LOVE STORY*

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Book By Charles R. Anderson

Montana is well described by Annick Smith in this delightful book. Recommended by a friend and loved by our entire book club. This is a must read!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A WONDERFUL MEMOIR OF LIFE IN CONTEMPORARY MONTANA

By Schuyler T Wallace

Annick Smith is a free spirit and her book of Montana memoirs, *HOMESTEAD*, highlights her joy in living life as she has chosen it. She approaches each of her experiences with perspective, joy, wonder, and strength. Best of all, she has the talent to put those experiences into words that captivate and enthrall her readers as she brings them along with her. Her writing skills shine as she relates the memory of her beloved husband with celebration rather than disabling sadness. She presents views of her glorious Montana wilderness that are awe-inspiring in their clarity and beauty. She tells of giving her boys the freedom and guidance necessary to grow to responsible adulthood while providing the protection necessary to make sure they make it. Today she joins them in joyous adult adventures with an unbreakable bond and nonjudgmental enthusiasm. She can endure the backbreaking fatigue of farm labor or trudge through the thigh-high snow of frigid Montana winters or fix an irrigation leak at the creek while fighting turkey-sized mosquitoes. Then she unwinds with the warmth of a crackling fire, cozy throw, and mug of hot cocoa. Whether her experiences are grinding or gentle, she always makes the sensations seem real to the reader. And, while she's at it, she'll tell you all about the brand inspectors, the rodeos, the rural dances and suppers, and the skinny-dipping with her friends in cold Montana waters. Neither your imagination nor your interest will wander when Smith is telling her stories. I highly recommend this book and applaud Annick Smith for her unabashed pride in her lifestyle, and her talent for sharing it.

Schuyler T Wallace

Author of *TIN LIZARD TALES*

Describes how the author and her family built a wilderness homestead in 1959 Montana that grew into a flourishing ranch and recounts the many adventures that found their roots in early American western and pioneering traditions. IP.

From Publishers Weekly

Coproducer of *A River Runs Through It* and executive producer of *Heartland*, Smith has lived in Montana for more than 30 years. With her husband, Dave, and their four sons, she moved to a ranch near the Big Blackfoot River. It fulfilled their dreams, though they knew Dave had a fatal heart disease; he died at 41. Smith recalls her childhood in Chicago as the daughter of Hungarian emigres, likening her move westward to that of her parents. She offers vivid descriptions of the landscape, of adventures large and small. Smith writes about backpacking into the Bob Marshall wilderness, about her friendship with Norman McLean (who wrote *A River Runs Through It*) and about her efforts to preserve the land. A joyous celebration of wilderness. Author tour. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

A filmmaker, writer, and widow, Smith lives in remote Montana. From this perspective, she discusses the loss of love, of wilderness, of time. But her overriding message is about the preservation of both personal memories and wild surroundings. These essays, which were previously published in various magazines but have been expanded here, cover cowboy history, the Big Blackfoot (the river featured in *A River Runs Through It*, which Smith coproduced), snow, fishing, family, and other themes. Some parts of the essays are redundant, but overall this is a worthwhile addition to collections on Montana and large nature collections. ?Nancy Moeckel, Miami Univ. Libs., Oxford, Ohio

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From Booklist

Smith came to Montana by way of Paris and Chicago, taking up the trek west her parents began when they left Hungary; but it was only years later, after establishing her Montana homestead and becoming thoroughly meshed with Big Sky Country,

that Smith realized that, like her parents, she had immigrated to a "land of greater freedom." This is the sort of subtle pattern Smith contemplates in her thoughtful and involving essays. She shares some evocative memories of her culturally stimulating childhood along Lake Michigan, remembering her self-effacing mother and her father, Stephen Deutch, an "almost famous" photographer. Smith married young and ended up in Montana in 1970 with her incurably ill husband and their four sons. They purchased 163 acres of land, built a home out of a recycled log house, and worked hard at living, writing, filmmaking, and loving until Dave's expected but nevertheless jolting death. Smith writes tenderly about these experiences, then rapturously about hiking, skiing, fishing the Big Blackfoot River, dancing, enjoying the company of literary friends Bill Kittredge and Norman Maclean, and working on the film version of *A River Runs through It*. A low-key yet forceful writer, Smith gives us much to ponder and admire. Donna Seaman