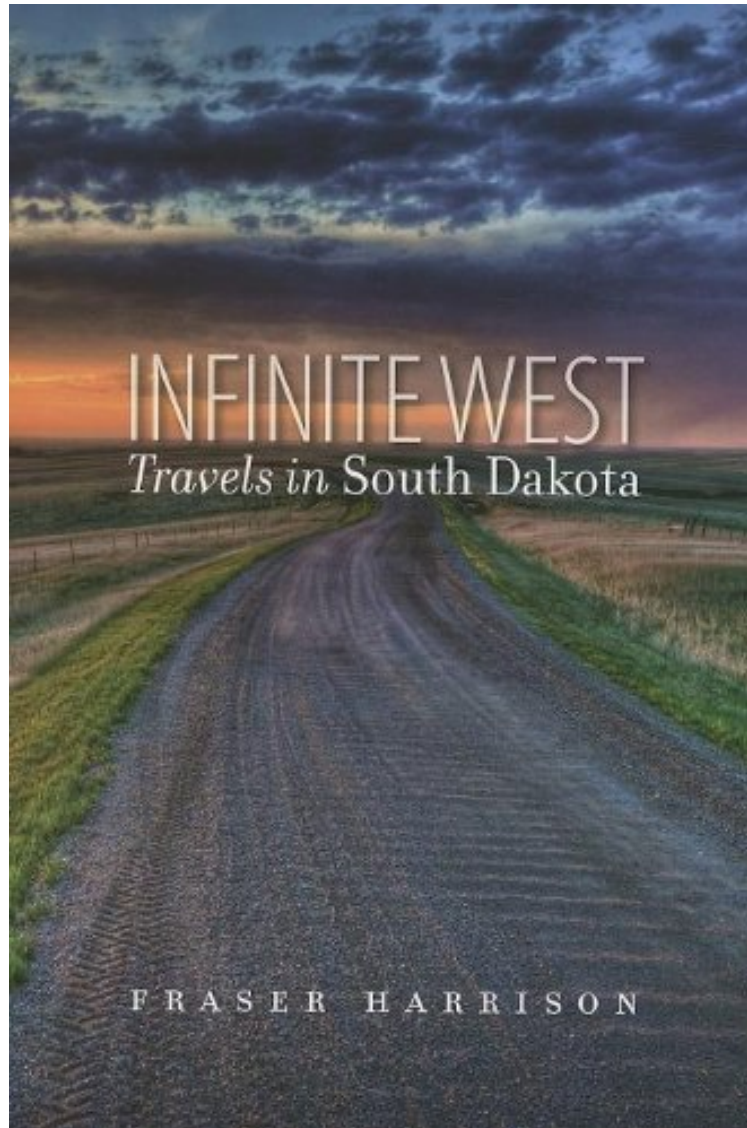


(Mobile book) Infinite West: Travels in South Dakota

Infinite West: Travels in South Dakota

Fraser Harrison Comp
*ebooks / Download PDF / *ePub / DOC / audiobook*



 Download

 Read Online

#3504178 in Books 2012-08-31 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.90 x .60 x 5.90l, .75 #File Name: 098465058X234 pages | File size: 47.Mb

Fraser Harrison Comp : Infinite West: Travels in South Dakota before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Infinite West: Travels in South Dakota:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well worthwhileBy Paul HarrisI received this book in LibraryThing's Early Reviewers programme. In 2012. I appreciate that my review is not exactly 'early', but better late than never right?I really enjoyed this interesting and entertaining exploration of a state that the author had first 'discovered' for himself while on a family holiday some twenty years earlier. That visit came at the end of an American

sabbatical for the English academic. Fraser Harrison's writing has been described by some earlier reviewers as reminiscent of Bill Bryson's. As an admirer of some of Bryson's books, I wouldn't disagree, but would add that Harrison is often perhaps more charming, more laconic, and more willing to put more of himself into the book than Bryson is. ("I could tell the story of my youth in rivers.")The book is split into seven lengthy chapters each focusing on the different main locations or aspects of South Dakota's story: 'Harrison' (a quirky self-indulgence in which the author explores the tiny township of his name - which in turn leads, among other things, to an unexpected exploration of the earliest pioneer settlers of the state), 'Lewis and Clark', 'The Badlands', 'Mount Rushmore', 'Deadwood', 'Wounded Knee', and a final chapter 'Sketches' which pulls together all sorts of diverting loose ends from his travels as a whole. Harrison is not afraid to explore uncomfortable truths concerning the USA's historic westward expansion, and her relations with, and treatment of, the indigenous populations. The section on Wounded Knee is a case in point, and while it does not amount to what could reasonably be called 'enjoyable' reading; the all too tragic subject matter is very sensitively approached and covered in a way that I found profoundly moving. I was usually pleased by his frequent tangents and interesting distractions as he floats smoothly from one subject area to the next. All in all a book I found well worthwhile my time. I'll certainly keep an eye out for other titles by the same author.

In his homage to the infinite west that is South Dakota, both past and present, Englishman Fraser Harrison tours well-known locations such as the Badlands, Mount Rushmore, and Deadwood. But there is far more to South Dakota, and the author also spent time in less-travelled areas such as Wounded Knee, the southern portion of the Missouri River, and Harrison, his namesake town. The author's witty, conversational, and detailed commentaries are paired with brief historical accounts to form a travel memoir comparable to those of Bill Bryson, Dayton Duncan, and Paul Theroux. Harrison paints pictures with his prose that let the reader share his experiences on the roads, in the cities, and among the people of small communities that make up the Land of Infinite Variety.

About the Author Fraser Harrison, the author of nine books, contributed regularly to major newspapers in the United Kingdom and worked as a freelance broadcaster for the BBC. He holds an undergraduate degree from Cambridge University and a masters in Human Rights from Essex University. His childhood love of the West has since been strengthened by many visits to South Dakota.