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Slow Road to Brownsville: A Journey Through the Heart of the Old West

David Reynolds

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#1774237 in Books 2014-10-14Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.40 x 1.00 x 5.40l, .0 #File Name: 1771640499400 pages | File size: 32.Mb

David Reynolds : Slow Road to Brownsville: A Journey Through the Heart of the Old West before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Slow Road to Brownsville: A Journey Through the Heart of the Old West:

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found the following review helpful. The best travel book I have read as a guide to ...By Christopher BrownThe best travel book I have read as a guide to a country's soul - the soul of it's people.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. * * * * * Fine travel writingBy Rig Barque* * * * * Fine travel writing.A great read. Funny and informative. The author, who is English and therefore has a fresh and unusual perspective, drives slowly north-south along US Route 83 through the Great Plains, from northern Manitoba to the south of Texas and he has a great time, looking at the landscape, discovering the history, and chatting to people in bars, motels, museums, cafes, and restaurants. He meets all sorts of people, from a conservative truck-driver to a liberal Texan rancher, by way of a Sioux Indian croupier in a casino. These people live in the states that most of us fly over and never visit and most of their grandparents and great-grandparents lived there too. All of them are friendly and talk about their lives, their ancestors, their futures and about America. Much of the narrative is funny; some of it such as when the author encounters an elderly woman with a tiny baby on her lap in an otherwise empty cafe is moving.The author stumbles upon and recounts a lot of history: Lewis and Clark; the Little Bighorn; the flight of the Cheyenne; the Alamo; and much more. He has opinions about these events. We might not agree with all of them, but this is travel writing at its best: clear, concise, well observed, thought-provoking a mirror to a large slice of the middle of America, and to our history. I was sorry when I got to the end at Brownsville, Texas. Mr Reynolds should drive on, across the Rio Grande, into Mexico and keep writing.

"Immensely illuminating and enjoyable account of a road trip along Highway 83 ... Books like [Reynold's] prove that good travel writing remains not only very much alive, but essential."The BooksellerIn Slow Road to Brownsville, David Reynolds embarks on a road trip along Highway 83, a little-known two-lane highway built in 1926 that runs from Swan River, Manitoba, to the Mexican border at Brownsville, Texas, on the Gulf of Mexico. Growing up in a small town in England, Reynolds was enthralled by both the myth of the Wild West and the myth of the open road. This road trip is his exploration of the reality behind these myths as he makes his way from small town to small town, gas station to gas station, and motel to motel, hanging out in bars, drinking with the locals, and observing their sometimes-peculiar customs. Reynolds also wanted to see the country where the Sioux, the Cheyenne, the Comanches, the Apaches, and other native groups lived and died and to look at how their descendants live now. He describes the forced location of the Cheyenne people, discovers the true story of the Alamo, and finds similarities between Sitting Bulls tours and those of the Black

A Bookseller UK Editor's ChoiceReynolds rides off, a lone English ranger, into a historical North American hinterland that exists as much in mythical reference as in modern reality. Ride shotgun with Reynolds as he pit-stops at diners and gas stations, and detours by way of legendary landmarks, where he reflectively enjoys cracker-barrel wisdom, saloon-bar wit, and good-ol country wackiness.Iain Finlayson, The Times" [Reynolds] is the perfect man for the route There might be kicks on Route 66, but there is gentle enlightenment along 83." Anthony Sattin, Observer"Vividly conjures a middle America of meat-packing plants, railroad tracks and grassy ranchlands. A likeable and learned guide, Reynolds writes with characteristic grace , illuminating "Ian Thomson, Financial TimesImmensely illuminating and enjoyable, Books like [Reynoldss] prove that good travel writing remains not only very much alive, but essential.Caroline Sanderson, BooksellerA fascinating tale told with great aplomb. Ive been enjoying his book no end. ,Robert ElmsA great travelogue, and history lesson as an open-eyed and adventurous Englishman makes his way down Highway 83.Willy Vlautin, author of The Free