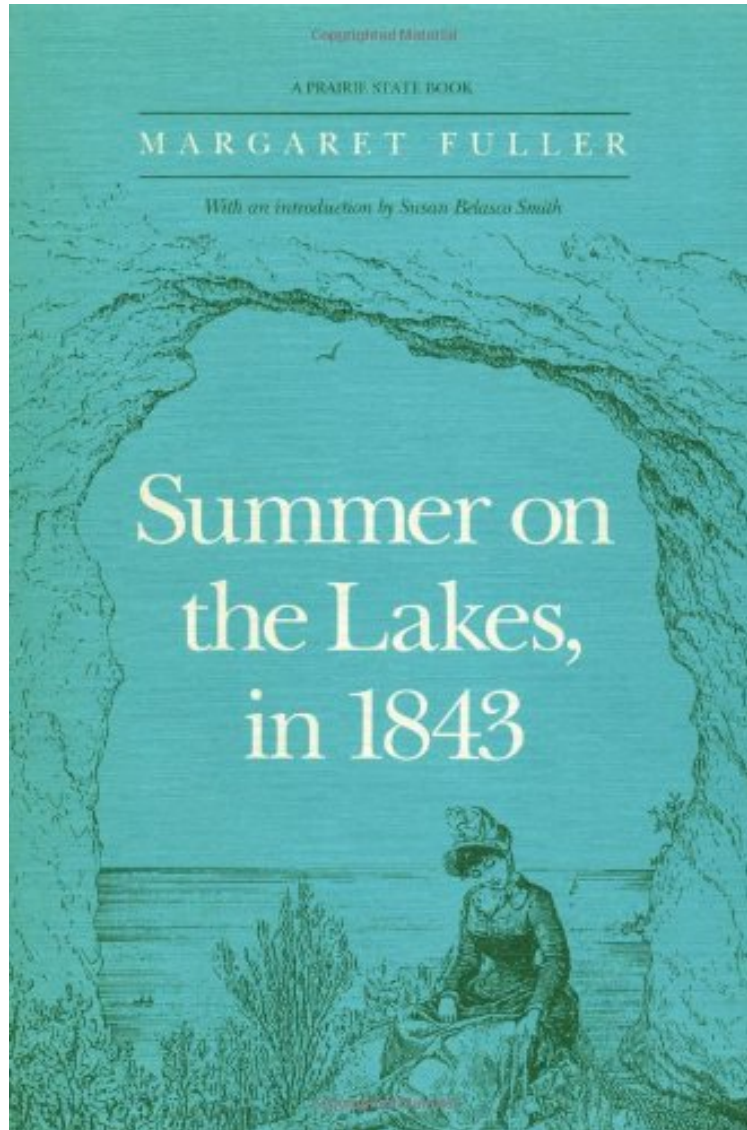


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Summer on the Lakes, in 1843 (Prairie State Books)

Margaret Fuller

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Margaret Fuller : Summer on the Lakes, in 1843 (Prairie State Books) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Summer on the Lakes, in 1843 (Prairie State Books):

22 of 23 people found the following review helpful. Enjoy a trip to the Midwest of the past By Corinne H. Smith Many American literature textbooks cover the topic of Transcendentalism with selections from just Emerson and Thoreau. Why they don't include some of the essays of Margaret Fuller is a mystery, especially in our current age of political correctness and emphasis on diversity. She provides a woman's opinion of life in general and of the landscape and

people of the Midwest in particular in this, her first published book. *Summer on the Lakes, in 1843* is first and foremost a travelogue of Fuller's tour of the Midwest, and we follow her to Chicago and Milwaukee and into rural Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin. Her trip not only predates her friends' visits to the same area (Emerson first came through by stagecoach in 1850, and Thoreau took the train in 1861) but it also offers more observations about the people and the living conditions out on the prairie. Fuller had more time to spend roaming and adventuring, and she seems to have been more interested in the local culture than the men later were. (Or perhaps Emerson and Thoreau figured that Margaret Fuller had already provided the world with descriptions of the region, so they need not bother.) Midwestern readers should particularly enjoy the historic look at familiar landscapes, written at a time when white settlements were just beginning to congeal and take hold. Secondly, Fuller focuses much of her writing on the plight of American Indians and also of women in general. She had read a great deal about the native people and seems disappointed to find that most of the Black Hawk War survivors had already moved west by the time of her visit. She also points a critical eye to the fate of the members of her gender who were helping to eke out a living on the prairie: "The great drawback upon the lives of these settlers, at present, is the unfitness of the women for their new lot." ... All domestic labor "must often be performed, sick or well, by the mother and daughters, to whom a city education has imparted neither the strength nor skill now demanded." (p. 38) And yet, many of the people she meets seem to be happy; and while life is hard and without most amenities, entertainment (even the occasional piano!) and merriment can abound. The narrative tends to languish when Fuller digresses into long-winded stories of the plights of specific women she either knew personally or heard about second- or even thirdhand. While these plot interruptions get tedious to the casual reader, they are further glimpses of feminine life in the early 19th century. Seen in that light, they can provide interesting diversions to the travelogue. Original illustrations by Fuller's traveling companion, Sarah Ann Clarke (sister of James Freeman Clarke) augment the text. This edition's introduction by Susan Belasco Smith helps to bring perspective to the trip and the writing. Recommended especially for residents of northern Illinois and to anyone interested in Midwestern history, transcendentalism, or women's studies. [This reviewer was an Illinois resident when these comments were written.] 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Margaret Fuller in her own words. By SMFI read *Summer on the Lakes* because I wanted to read Margaret Fuller's writings before I read her biography by Megan Marshall. I'm glad I did. She sprang out of the book and you could feel her wrestle with her times even though she was such a part of it. Her travels to the Lakes seemed to give her ideas and perhaps a yearning to experience the world rather than maybe read of it. She comes across as far more compassionate than she is often described. An amazing mind.

This book an EXACT reproduction of the original book published before 1923. This IS NOT an OCR'd book with strange characters, introduced typographical errors, and jumbled words. This book may have occasional imperfections such as missing or blurred pages, poor pictures, errant marks, etc. that were either part of the original artifact, or were introduced by the scanning process. We believe this work is culturally important, and despite the imperfections, have elected to bring it back into print as part of our continuing commitment to the preservation of printed works worldwide. We appreciate your understanding of the imperfections in the preservation process, and hope you enjoy this valuable book.

From the Back Cover *Summer On The Lakes, In 1843* is not simply Fuller's portfolio of sketches, poems, stories, anecdotes, dialogues, and reflections on her Great Lakes journey, but also a record of her internal journey of self-exploration. Specialists in women's studies will be drawn to her impressions of 'women of the west,' which in some ways foreshadow her well-known feminist study *Women in the Nineteenth Century*. About the Author Sarah Margaret Fuller Ossoli, commonly known as Margaret Fuller, (May 23, 1810 July 19, 1850) was an American journalist, critic, and women's rights advocate associated with the American transcendentalism movement. She was the first full-time American female book reviewer in journalism. Her book *Woman in the Nineteenth Century* is considered the first major feminist work in the United States.