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Andrew Moore: Dirt Meridian



Synopsis

In *Dirt Meridian*, Andrew Moore takes to the air to document the High Plains of North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska in a series of stunning, large-format photographs. The "meridian" of the title refers to the 100th meridian, the longitude that neatly bisects the US and has long been considered the dividing line between the East and West. Much of the meridian traverses America's so-called flyover country, those sparsely populated landscapes between the urban centers on either coast. Other parts of the meridian cross contentious zones such as the heavily fracked Bakken formation in North Dakota. *Dirt Meridian* interweaves two stories: the myths and history of the vast, severe American High Plains alongside portraits of the people who live there today. Along the way, Moore worked with ranchers, farmers, crop dusters, game wardens, writers and historians to capture the mythology and reality of the High Plains. Many photographs in this book were taken using a specially modified camera in a low-flying plane; the resulting pictures, with their literal bird's-eye view, offer a unique perspective on this quintessential, seemingly boundless American landscape. American photographer Andrew Moore (born 1957) is widely acclaimed for his photographic series, usually taken over many years, recording the effects of time on the natural and built landscape.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Out of this vast Plains country photographer Andrew Moore travelled from the Dakotas down to Texas and took sixty remarkable photos for the book. What makes so many of his images rather

special is that they were taken with a camera mounted on the wing of a small plane. This enabled him to cover the vast distances easily and land near visual interesting places for a ground shot. The idea clearly paid off because as well as the aerial shots there are others well away from roads and tracks which a road bound photographer would never find. I thought the aerial photos particularly fascinating because the Cessna Cub allowed Moore to get close enough to buildings (frequently abandoned) and vegetation to reveal the feel of landscape. The first photo in the book stretches over a spread and shows a small schoolhouse, built in 1900, set in the brown countryside with no road, pupils went to school by horseback. Other aerial shots show farms with two or three building and no other structures or trees for miles. This is more than a book of excellent landscape photos, the human side of the Plains is revealed with images of fracking in North Dakota, pipelines, freight trains, pivot irrigation, cattle farming and some portraits of hardy folk who are happy to live in this rather inhospitable country. 'Dirt meridian' is a beautifully produced and printed book, the back pages have two essays and thumbnails of all the photos with interesting captions. Like his 2010 photo book of Detroit ruins (also published by Damiani) Andrew Moore has delivered a fine selection of Plains imagery.

Wendell Berry tells us we must feel an affection for place if we want to survive. I feel an affection for the places of "Dirt Meridian" and now have a little more hope for our future.

This is a gorgeous document about the middle of the U.S. - a landscape that most folks on the coasts dismiss, but Moore shares it with insight and reverence. Highly recommended.

This is a beautiful, beautiful book. Would definitely recommend it and buy it again.

A beautiful and compelling book.

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