

(Download free pdf) The Lost Continent

The Lost Continent

Bill Bryson

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Bill Bryson : The Lost Continent before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Lost Continent:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. So funny! what a sense of humor he has! By all you need is love! I read this a few months ago, right after a 2 months trip driving across the USA....so I can relate to much of what he describes, and I agree with him of just about all of it! I laughed out loud at almost every page...Some people didn't like it, but that might be because he described them in this book in a not too favorable light...too bad! It's hysterically funny...unless you are the ultra-sensitive type! 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. sarcastically witty in places and informative about some historical places ...By Doug sarcastically witty in places and informative about some historical places of interest, but otherwise not outstanding. I would give it a four if Mr. Bryson had been a little more respectful about the people he wrote about. Some of it is quite offensive. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Summer Read By W. Simons Searching for small-town America is a joy when you follow Bill Bryson. I have long been a fan of Mr. Bryson, his "In A Sunburned Country" is the finest travel book on Australia I've come across, and this early work of his is delightful. I call this a summer read because it's far too hot and stormy in middle America to visit in person. It does whet my appetite for a late fall visit though.

Hardly anyone ever leaves Des Moines, Iowa. But Bill Bryson did, and after ten years in England he decided to go home - to a foreign country. In an ageing Chevrolet Chevette, he drove nearly 14,000 miles through 38 states to compile this hilarious and perceptive state-of-the-nation report on small-town America. From the Deep South to the Wild West, from Elvis' birthplace through to Custer's Last Stand, Bryson visits places he re-named Dullard, Coma and

Doldrum (so the residents don't sue or come after him with baseball bats). But his hopes of finding the American dream end in a nightmare of greed, ignorance and pollution. This is a wickedly witty and savagely funny assessment of a country lost to itself - and to him. Travel through small-town America with Kerry Shale's popular BBC Radio 4 reading of Bill Bryson's comic novel.

.com A travelogue by Bill Bryson is as close to a sure thing as funny books get. The Lost Continent is no exception. Following an urge to rediscover his youth (he should know better), the author leaves his native Des Moines, Iowa, in a journey that takes him across 38 states. Lucky for us, he brought a notebook. With a razor wit and a kind heart, Bryson serves up a colorful tale of boredom, kitsch, and beauty when you least expect it. Gentler elements aside, The Lost Continent is an amusing book. Here's Bryson on the women of his native state: "I will say this, however--and it's a strange, strange thing--the teenaged daughters of these fat women are always utterly delectable ... I don't know what it is that happens to them, but it must be awful to marry one of those nubile cuties knowing that there is a time bomb ticking away in her that will at some unknown date make her bloat out into something huge and grotesque, presumably all of a sudden and without much notice, like a self-inflating raft from which the pin has been yanked." Yes, Bill, but be honest: what do you really think? From Publishers Weekly Bryson, a freelance journalist, succumbed to nostalgia upon returning home to Iowa after living for 20 years in England: he decided to relive the dreary vacation car trips of his American childhood. Starting out at his mother's house in Des Moines, he motors through 38 states over the course of two months, looking for the quintessential American small town--something he never encountered as a boy, and certainly doesn't discover now, as he tours superhighways, motels, shopping malls, fast-food joints and tourist traps. And, like a bored, bemused minor tagging along after adults, he trashes almost everything he sees, including the Smithsonian Museum and the trees in Sequoia National Park. Some of Bryson's comments are hilarious--if you enjoy the nonstop whining wisecracks of a 36-year-old kid. First serial to Cond e Nast Traveler; BOMC alternate. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal An expatriate American now living in England chronicles a trip around the United States in which he describes American foibles to the British. The first two chapters capture the tedium of a family vacation and the daffy absurdity of life in the author's home state of Iowa. Midwesterners will grab friends to read choice bits, saying "see." But after these wonderful opening chapters, the author's comic tricks become repetitive: "then I said this outrageous thing; no, not really, but" While the sometimes irrelevant statistics are interesting, they, too eventually become tedious. As the book grinds on, it descends into a litany of "then I went here, and next I went there." Browsers reading the opening bits will snatch it off the shelves, but many will return it unfinished. (\$100,000 promotion; 50,000 copy first printing).- Nora Rawlinson, "Library Journal" Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc.