

(Download ebook) A Personal Country

A Personal Country

A. C. Greene

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A. C. Greene : A Personal Country before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Personal Country:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. "But There Is Beauty Here, The Beauty of Space and of Freedom"By Eric MayforthMany Texans from other parts of the state dislike the open, rugged country west of Fort Worth and Waco. For those who appreciate West Texas, though, like native A.C. Greene, it is a place that is endlessly fascinating. In 1968, Greene wrote "A Personal Country" to portray the land and its history, customs, and culture.As Greene notes, there is not widespread agreement on where West Texas actually begins the author's own boundary is roughly the Brazos on the east, the Pecos and Caprock on the west, the Red River on the north, and the Edwards Plateau on the south. The terrain, remoteness, and scarcity of rainfall forced settlers to rely on each other, and Greene talks of how the region shaped the character of its residents, notes the type of people who succeeded there, and describes the influence of Christianity on West Texas.The author discusses the settlement of the nineteenth century and the changes of the twentieth in the region. Greene talks of the boom and bust cycles in towns such as Ranger and Thurber and provides notable anecdotes about some of the other key towns of the region. Greene's description of some of his ancestors and stories from his childhood growing up in the region during the Great Depression are absorbing. By the late Sixties, though, West Texas had changed markedly from the days of his youth (and has changed much more since then), and Greene describes jobs related to the land that were already disappearing by the time he released this volume.Greene also introduces the reader to other staples of the region such as mesquite trees, railroads, ghost towns,

the weather and climate, the buffalo and its extinction, cowboys and oilmen, old forts, and graveyards. I lived on the eastern edge of this region from seventh grade through the end of college and thoroughly enjoyed Greene's account of this great part of the Lone Star State. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Very enjoyable book
By Rough Customer
I am from almost the same area of north Texas as author Greene, and this was the first book that I have read by Mr. Greene. I enjoyed this book a lot! It is non fiction, and a kind of rambling reminisce account of various locales, people, buildings, and history of that area of north Texas between Ft. Worth on the east and Snyder on the west. His era of growing up was in the late 1920s and early 30s. Much of what he grew up with is now gone, but the memories remain, and this is the type of book I enjoy very much. Author Greene was an excellent wordsmith, he spent his life writing and it shows on these pages.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Pop
Didn't get more than 2 chapters into the book before I was ordering copies for friends. Enjoyable read.

This book brings alive what one man feels about his childhood home. The place is West Texas, seen across a long vista in which today's events and people merge with the author's boyhood and young manhood. It is a harsh, remote country, where the weather is always very close and the horizon far away. The Brazos country of long-ago Fourth of July fishing expeditions; the grass-grown remains of a way station of the Butterfield Stage Line; the streets of Abilene; the sparse grazing lands under infinite skies—all are made resonant by a native son's affection and understanding. It is a way of life—resilient and persnickety—that is almost gone. Above all, it is people: the author's grandmother, who had a mortal fear of bridges and whose premonitions of unnamed calamities (that as often as not happened), both alarmed and pleased the young boy; Uncle Aubrey, who married late; the blacksmith they awakened in the dead of night; the familiar neighbors; the rare and deliciously mysterious strangers. With humor and strong, unsentimental feeling, A. C. Greene conserves for us the priceless eccentricities of place and person that are being flattened out—almost literally bulldozed away—by the impatient, insatiable onrush of the twentieth century. His West Texas is a very personal country, but what he seeks to share will be familiar to all who take pleasure in the memories that tie them to their own special region of America.

From The New Yorker "...a book that has strength, character, and personality. "...paints a vivid, colorful, and...sad picture of the hard life of the people..." -- Lone Star Book "...well-written volume, hauntingly evocative..." -- The Pacific Historian "Greene is at the best when he describes the peculiar, idiosyncratic, and proud people that this frontier world has produced." -- Lone Star Book
From the Publisher
Coming up on the thirtieth anniversary of its first publication, this book brings alive what one man feels about his childhood home. The place is West Texas, seen across a long vista in which today's events and people merge with the author's boyhood and young manhood. It is a harsh, remote country, where the weather is always close and the horizon far away. The Brazos country of long-ago Fourth of July fishing expeditions; the remains of a way station of the Butterfield Stage Line; the streets of Abilene; the sparse grazing lands under infinite skies—all are made resonant by a native son's affection and understanding. It is a way of life—resilient and persnickety—that is almost gone. Above all, it is people: the author's grandmother, who had a mortal fear of bridges and whose premonitions of unnamed calamities (that as often as not happened), both alarmed and pleased the young boy; the blacksmith they awakened in the dead of night to repair the family Maxwell; the familiar neighbors; the rare and deliciously mysterious strangers. With humor and strong, unsentimental feeling, A.C. Greene conserves for us the priceless eccentricities of place and person that are being flattered out by the impatient, insatiable onrush of the twentieth century. His West Texas is a very personal country, but what he seeks to share will be familiar to all who take pleasure in the memories that tie them to their own special region of America. "...personal, humorous, loving and frequently poetic. One could go a long way toward understanding West Texas by reading this book and nothing else." -Books of the Southwest