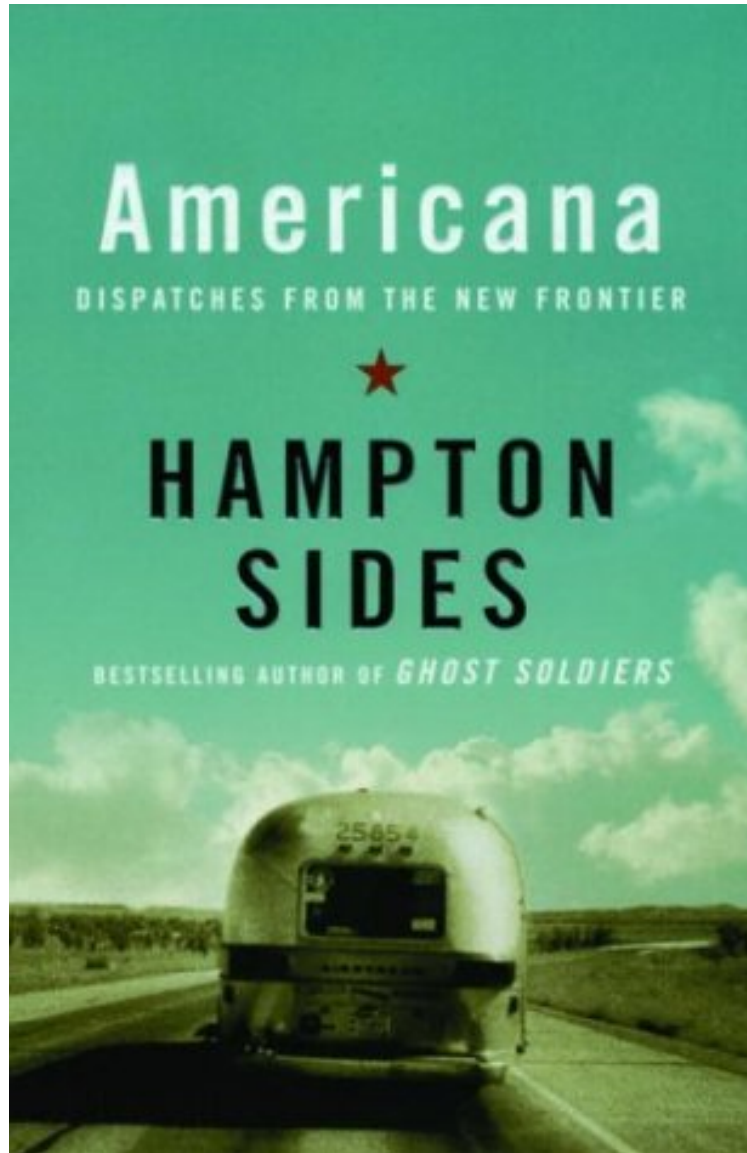


(Free and download) Americana: Dispatches from the New Frontier

Americana: Dispatches from the New Frontier

Hampton Sides

*ebooks / Download PDF / *ePub / DOC / audiobook*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#391269 in Books Hampton Sides 2004-04-13 2004-04-13Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x 1.00 x 5.201, .74 #File Name: 1400033551464 pagesAmericana Dispatches from the New Frontier | File size: 73.Mb

Hampton Sides : Americana: Dispatches from the New Frontier before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Americana: Dispatches from the New Frontier:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Well Honed Pieces of AmericaBy Wayne A. SmithHampton Sides is an excellent writer and story teller. He also is very good with widely divergent topics as witnessed by his excellent "Ghost Soldiers" and "Blood and Thunder". In this book, "Americana", Sides the magazine reporter offers a

compelling collection of stories that display some of the wide and ranging interests that define America in our day. The reader will ride the Iditarod Trail and skateboards in two of the essays - the first exploring a celebration of the last frontier in America and the latter the phenomenon of Tony Hawk. Readers will also explore the national spelling bee, the earth travelers who inhabited Biosphere (remember that?), Pentecostal worshipers and more somber topics like 9-11 survivors and a Marine hero killed in Iraq. Bass fishing, a secret conclave of powerful men who meet in the woods and the Sturgis Harley-Davidson meet up are delved into along with numerous other pictures of "Americana." Although this book is unlike *Ghost Soldiers* or *Blood and Thunder* in that it is a collection of discreet portraits and not a single story, the essays are fascinating and Sides handles them well. Some of those covered will strike readers as "off their rockers" but the author never belittles nor humiliates those who people his writings. He just tells well-crafted stories and gives the characters time and space to reveal their passion and interest in the topic at hand. Sides is an excellent storyteller and anyone interested in delving into some of the edges of this nation will appreciate his collection.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well Written, Interesting, Diverse Subjects....By mdwright This proved to be a very good collection of short stories. Some were only a few pages long, others were over 25 pages long. The subjects of these stories varies widely, from Tony Hawk to Sturgis to a phenomenal account of 9/11. Granted some stories are more interesting than others, depending on your interests, but they're all very well written. I couldn't have imagined finding an article on Tupperware as interesting as I did.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Stunning Collection By Jack Sparacino As a newspaper columnist and trained social psychologist who loved "In The Kingdom of Ice" and "Ghost Soldiers," also by Mr. Sides, I came to "Americana" with high expectations... although of exactly what I wasn't sure. It turns out that the author can not only devote years of research into stunning episodes in American history but also descriptively nip away at the underbelly of American society. With equal respect for our country's heroes (e.g., "First" which provides a brilliant portrait of the first U.S. combat casualty during the second Iraq war), yahoos (e.g., "Smells Like Zippy Spirit," "Sisters of the Bowl") and just plain colorful characters (virtually all the remaining stories), Sides manages to combine great writing with sharp reporting and a wry sense of humor. This is the real America we love, not necessarily the more two-dimensional one featured on the evening news or the one described by such perfectly capable correspondents as Charles Kouralt. I doubt that anyone will enjoy each of these 30 essays equally, but no doubt everyone will have several favorite pieces that will stick with them and perhaps call out for a second or third read. Few writers could have ever pulled off a collection quite like "Americana."

Harley-Davidson bikers . . . Grand Canyon river rats. . . Mormon archaeologists . . . Spelling bee prodigies . . . For more than fifteen years, best-selling author and historian Hampton Sides has traveled widely across the continent exploring the America that lurks just behind the scrim of our mainstream culture. Reporting for *Outside*, *The New Yorker*, and NPR, among other national media, the award-winning journalist has established a reputation not only as a wry observer of the contemporary American scene but also as one of our more inventive and versatile practitioners of narrative non-fiction. In these two dozen pieces, collected here for the first time, Sides gives us a fresh, alluring, and at times startling America brimming with fascinating subcultures and bizarre characters who could live nowhere else. Following Sides, we crash the redwood retreat of an apparent cabal of fabulously powerful military-industrialists, drop in on the Indy 500 of bass fishing, and join a giant techno-rave at the lip of the Grand Canyon. We meet a diverse gallery of American visionaries from the impossibly perky founder of Tupperware to Indian radical Russell Means to skateboarding legend Tony Hawk. We retrace the route of the historic Bataan Death March with veterans from Sides acclaimed WWII epic, *Ghost Soldiers*. Sides also examines the nation that has emerged from the ashes of September 11, recounting the harrowing journeys of three World Trade Center survivors and deciding at the last possible minute not to "embed" on the Iraqi front-lines with the U.S. Marines. *Americana* gives us a sparkling mosaic of our country, in all its wild and poignant charm.

From *Publishers Weekly* Contemplating the various subcultures into which Americans organize themselves, freelance journalist Sides once mused, "If an American was into tiddlywinks, he could start a national association, and tiddlywinkers in their thousands would come crawling from the woodwork." Finding to his surprise that there actually was such an association, he set off to explore the national passion for joining. Sides attended the annual gatherings of eight associations that particularly titillated him; he reports here on a reunion of the power elite at the campy but exclusive Bohemian Club in San Francisco and the religious ardor he observed at annual meetings of Tupperware saleswomen, recreational-vehicles owners, sledders, aging hippies and Church of God disciples, among others. Almost always curious and entertaining, his descriptions of the settings, the members, the mystiques, the hoopla, the charismatic leaders and the histories of these groups throw revealing light on an idiosyncratic aspect of the national character. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Library Journal* Renowned for individualism, Americans paradoxically have what the author calls a "native genius" for forming groups. Here he presents eight such subcultures, each reflecting a kind of collective individualism run amok. His choices are as diverse as bikers at the Black Hills Motor Classic, Tupperware salesladies on their annual pilgrimage to company

headquarters, modern hippies at their "Gathering of the Tribes," and members of the Bohemian Club, a secret all-male retreat of the rich and famous. Sides offers some sociological insights and historical background on each group, but he relies primarily on his acute power of observation and ability to tell a good story. A fun, fascinating book that is recommended for most public libraries.- Jim Burns, Broward Cty. Lib. System, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist

With an admitted lack of certainty about what America "means," Sides nonetheless has amassed a collection of articles and essays that capture the country's elusive qualities, noting that America, supremely confident, has run out of geographical space and is now venturing into new social frontiers. In the collection of 30 stories, Sides illustrates the amazing breadth and depth of American preoccupations and idiosyncrasies. He gate-crashes the ultra-exclusive, conservative Bohemian Grove resort in California and then chronicles a rafting party for the human-engineered flooding of the Grand Canyon, the reentry ceremony for Biosphere 2 in Arizona, and the anything-goes weekends in the California desert. He profiles an array of individuals, from Native American radical Russell Means to extreme skateboarder Tony Hawk. In a section on post-9/11 America, Sides profiles three survivors of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and explains his decision not to embed himself as a journalist in Iraq. With an eye for detail and the absurd, Sides, author of the highly acclaimed *Ghost Soldiers* (2001), presents a vivid portrait of the restlessness and inventiveness of Americans. Vanessa Bush Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved