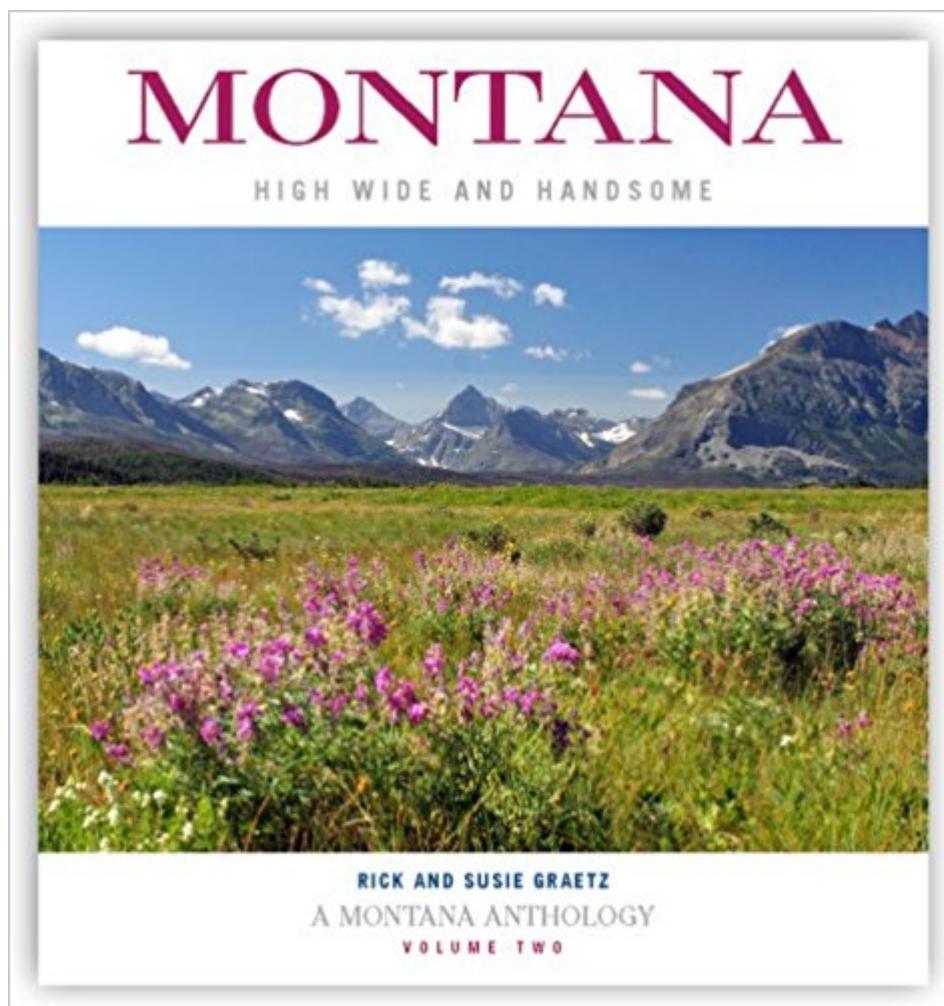


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Montana: High, Wide, And Handsome, Volume 2



Synopsis

In this elegant second volume, inspired by Joseph Kinsey Howard's classic text *High Wide and Handsome*, works by western writers accompany striking color photographs of the state. Please visit us at FarcountryPress.com for more information and more Northern Rockies Publishing titles!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Husband-and-wife team Rick and Susie Graetz are writers, photographers, publishers, and adventurers. Together they have published books about a variety of places in the United States, as well as Southeast Asia and the West Indies; produce specialty publications for Montana's tourism sector; and write a weekly syndicated newspaper column called *This is Montana*. Rick is the founder of *Montana Magazine*.

Good serviceGreat Photos

Rick and Susie Graetz published a first volume in 2005. Each is a great addition to anyone's bookshelf. Subtitled, "A Montana Anthology," they masquerade as coffee table books, but are much more than that. The text is excerpted from a variety of sources but Rick and Suzie Graetz took all the photos. Each text is accompanied by one or more photos - about one photo per page and many fill a full 10 by 11ÃfÃ Ä Ä page, some even jump the gutter. In large part, my reviews of the two

volumes apply equally well to both. Readers of this review may want to read the other as well since I avoided repeating where possible. Some readers will like Volume 1 better, and some will like Volume 2. In fact, speaking at a book signing, Susie said that she like one better and Rick said he liked the other. These volumes, together or separate, are photo album, history book, and an encirclement of an extremely varied state. Each is an impossible task for any one, two, or many volumes. In general, these are books of Montana geography. The photos show landscapes, rivers and mountains. Outside of a few folks handling livestock and some Native Americans, there aren't photos of people. Although a few of the writings touch on the Montana way of life, that is not the purpose of the books. Montana is huge in so many ways. Seldom does any driver touch the eastern and western border all in the same day. Elevations range from 1800 feet to over 12,000 feet - Butte, one of the state's larger cities, is said to be "a mile high." The plains in the eastern part of the state and the mountains in the west are unlike one another in looks, weather, resources, and lifestyle. Readers who haven't spent time in the state will read these volumes cover-to-cover and yet fail to comprehend the extremes of the state's many dimensions. Some residents, even some born in the state, don't fully grasp the magnitude and magnificence of Montana. Certainly, Rick and Susie Graetz do understand it. That is the only way that these volumes could exist. Most of the small quibbles I had with Volume 1 do not apply to Volume 2. The text seems to flow better in Volume 2, possibly because quite a number of the text selections are two pages, rather than one page. This volume is less promotional and lets Montana speak for itself. The photos selected for Volume 2 look more natural to me; fewer were taken with the early morning or late evening sun. You will note however, that I put a top score of 5 on Volume 1. I guess Volume 2 has to get a 5-plus. There could well be a Volume 3 and a 5-plus-plus might be in order. The photos in this and the many other books published by these authors represent many hours searching for the right view, loads of film or digital recordings, and thousands of miles on Montana highways and back roads. The hundred or so photos included in each volume were selected from files that undoubtedly reach into the tens of thousands. The text selections are from dozens of sources, the cream of Montana's authors spanning more than a century. The matching up of text and photos is appropriate but not slavish. I believe that few people have been in as many Montana towns, driven as many Montana back roads, or even taken as many photos in Montana as my wife and I. However, it is obvious that what we have done is minuscule in every respect when compared to Rick and Susie Graetz.

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