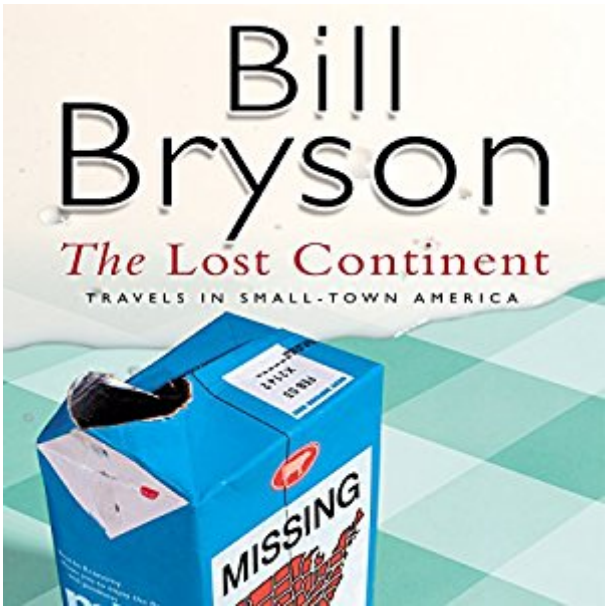
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The Lost Continent: Travels In Small Town America



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Synopsis

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. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition
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Best Sellers Rank: #131 inÃ Â Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Travel #132 inÃ Â Books > Audible Audiobooks > Humor > Essays #289 inÃ Â Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Travel

Customer Reviews

This book is absolutely hilarious from cover to cover. Bryson takes the reader through small town America, but along the way, he takes so many unexpected and delightful side journeys, through his memories as a kid growing up in Iowa, his dry observations of small-town American life, or his little rants on customer service, restaurant workers, hotels, and fine attractions.If you can take only one book along on your next trip, do yourself a favor - take this one. But be prepared for your sides to hurt from laughter.

I had to go back and look at the copyright date because this could be America 2016. I assume the

negative reviews are from people who don’t like the way their town was portrayed. I don’t think the author’s judgement is harsh. It is accurate: America isn’t perfect. This book portrays it, good and bad. And very funny in parts. The only shock is how prices have changed - and Bill thought prices were bad at the time! Five stars, yes.

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!

The book version was the first Bryson book I read...many years ago. I laughed until I cried, reading many parts out loud to my spouse through the laughter and tears. As one who grew up in small town rural America AND as one who remembers such road trips as a child, I give this book top marks. This book made me a fan of Bill Bryson’s curmudgeonly delightful writing.My book club chose to read the book this month, so I bought the BBC audio version to listen and refresh my memory of reading. I remembered more of the book than I thought I did...remembering huge chunks that are MISSING from this audio version. I find nothing in the description to indicate this is an abridged version. "Abridged" is not the right word to use for this audio version. "Slashed" or "significantly reduced" would be more accurate. Some of my favorite passages are completely skipped. I listened to a bit of the audio with the book in hand. In one edit, pages and pages are skipped and, in some cases, this means the entire visit to a town is skipped. I am quite disappointed with this version.

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.

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.

I consider myself a true Bill Bryson fan, and have read or listened to as many of his works as I can

obtain, and thoroughly enjoyed them all. Except this one. There is a scarcity of his usual humor in this book, and I found the tone to be mean-spirited and just plain rude. It is so different from his later writings, which are intelligent, insightful, and very funny. I'm sorry I even started this one, and quit it after less than 100 pages. I advise any potential Bryson readers to take a pass on The Lost Continent.

Awful. Truly awful. I' not even half way through and I feel like I've been reading it for months. At first, the snarky comments, and wry sarcasm are kind of funny; I even laughed out loud. But as the book trudges on, that's all there is. And insult after insult of people, places, just everything. And for all the travelling, the book just goes nowhere. I'm reading this only because my high school daughter has to read it for a summer assignment. I am left wondering WHY??? With all the literature out there, why was this narrow minded author full of petty observations chosen? I regret that I was required to buy it for her.

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