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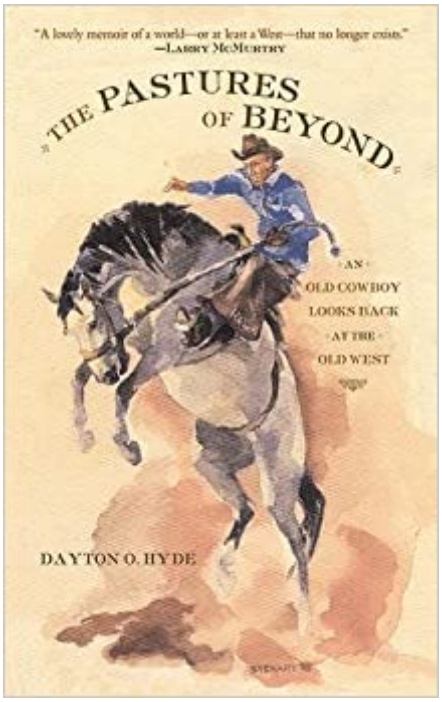
The Pastures Of Beyond: An Old Cowboy Looks Back At The Old West



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Synopsis

At age thirteen, Dayton Hyde, a spirited beanpole of a boy, ran away from home in Michigan to Yamsi, his uncleÃ¢â ¬â„¢s ranch in eastern Oregon. This was in the 1930s, and Yamsi was one of the last great cattle ranches of the West. Soon the boy, nicknamed “Hawk,Ã¢â ¬Â• was riding a horse, soaking up ranch life from the hired hands, and winning the cowboysÃ¢â ¬â„¢ respect. A natural bronco buster, he eventually became a rodeo rider, bull fighter, clown, and photographer, working all over the West with the likes of Slim Pickens, Rex Allen, and Mel Lambert—all of whom went on to careers in Hollywood—and selling pictures to Life magazine. After the Second World War, he took over the reins at Yamsi, ensuring its survival in changing times. Now, half a century later, he gives us his valedictory ode to that last great period of the Old West. Full of humor, rollicking stories, and love of the land, Hyde pays homage to the cowboys, Indians, and great horses that made the West the legend it is today.

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. At 13, Hyde ran away from home, hopping a train from Wisconsin to his uncle's ranch in Oregon. Like countless other American kids in the 1930s, he wanted to be a cowboy. Hyde became that, and much more: rodeo clown, Life photographer, WWII soldier, author, historian and driving force behind the campaign to save the country's few remaining herds of wild horses. It's a dramatic life story, and Hyde has a raconteur's gift for telling it well. He vividly describes his initiations into the trade of cowboy, enduring the ridicule of grizzled ranch hands with little patience for a gangly teenager. Hyde earns their respect by risking his life to herd cattle through a blizzard;

he earns some more by breaking horses no one else is able to tame. After he fights the Nazis, he organizes a rodeo inside a Roman coliseum in liberated France. His adventures over the years are populated with a colorful collection of friends. Some are towering figures who embody the Old West, like the septuagenarian cowboy who thinks nothing of tracking, capturing and taming a wild mustang in a single afternoon. Others seem like characters from a saloon act, like the two drunks who, attempting to dig a grave with dynamite, accidentally blast the surrounding coffins above ground. One especially captivating personality is rodeo clown Slim Pickens, whose lopsided grin would eventually enliven films like Dr. Strangelove and Blazing Saddles. Hyde mourns these figures' passing along with the West he loved. As wistful as it is humorous, this salty memoir is also an elegy for a bygone era. Photos. (May) Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Ã¢â ¬Å“Graceful. . . . Enlightening. . . . More than a memoir, this book is an elegy to a world and a way of life.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Los Angeles Times)Ã¢â ¬Å“As wistful as it is humorous, this salty memoir is also an elegy for a bygone era.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Publishers Weekly)Ã¢â ¬Å“A lovely memoir of a worldÃ¢â ¬â •or at least a WestÃ¢â ¬â •that no longer exists.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Larry McMurtry, author of Lonesome Dove)

this was a gift to my husband . He is 73 and a hunter plus horseman (of the pastin addition to being a good and kind man.Anyway: he LOVED THIS BOOK and has passed it on to to others. Our daughter is going to read it next. It speaks how the world really was and how this type of life was "plain and simple" no frills but all worth it. These are the people who really know their business. These are the men who shaped the West. Too bad those days have ended. They offered young men the ability to grow up and learn and care and be surrounded with the life to always carry with them and learn and grow. It may have been hard, but I imagine it was well worth it. Having grown up in Kansas in the 50's I recall some of this life in my childhood and it makes me sad that our children no longer will know such existed. I fear our "realities" have been made out of digital media.

I love reading about the lives of cowgirls and cowboys from the past and looked forward to learning more about the life of Dayton Hyde. I was especially interested because of a documentary I had seen about the Wild Horse Sanctuary. This book is more rambling reminiscences and it appeared that some sections were being careful to protect the people being written about. While I commend

being careful of other people, at times I felt it was watered down too much to maintain my interest in them. I had seen many Slim Pickens movies in my youth but until reading this book I didn't know (or had forgotten) that it was a brain tumor that ended his life.

When I was a teenager, I got to know an old cowboy named Charlie. He was born before the Great Depression and when it got bad on the farm, he saddled up his favourite horse and took off for Alaska. Worked his way across the US and Canada, made it all the way to Alaska and got a ride in a fishing boat so he could say he'd set foot on Siberia. I'll never forget all the great stories Charlie told and will always regret that I never heard more of them.Reading Dayton Hyde's book was the closest I've come to listening to Charlie. I just miss the fire and the cowboy coffee. The horses and their quirks, the cattle and the life tending them, the rodeoin' and the pranks, there's a little of all of it in this book. Word portraits of many loved friends now long gone but who will never be forgotten because they made their way into one of Mr Hyde's stories.A first class read of a fascinating life.

I believe this book to be one of THE BEST books about the contemporary American West.Beginning in the early 1900's this book chronicles what life was like on a remote Oregon cattle ranch and citing many characters that made up what was still the Wild West.....including some excellent information on the rodeo cowboys of a bygone era.I could not put this book down.....extremely well written and forthright giving the reader a rare glimpse into the life code of the West.Interwoven into this treasure are many instances of cowboy humor and logic .....If you enjoy The American West,do yourself a favor and read this book!

I bought this book by mistake ! Courser in the wrong place. After realizing I had messed up, I didn't want to go to the trouble of fixing it. I started reading the book and from the very first page I was hooked. This is one of those books when you get done you wish you could find more like it, but you probably won't be able too. Thoroughly enjoyed it.

Wow,what a great man ,thank you Mr hyde for showing me a quite kid can still become anything he wants .

Good book

This is a short, fairly well written memoir of the author's life. It tells a great deal about the vagaries of

life in the real old west, not the movie west.The author was quite versatile, cowboy, rodeo clown, rodeo photographer, Berkeley graduate, rancher, father, foster parent, author of several books, and presently honcho of a large wild horse rescue sanctuary in the Black Hills. He is featured in his latest role on a video which I saw on PBS.

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