



State by State: A Panoramic Portrait of America

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“A funny, moving, rousing collection, greater than the sum of its excellent parts.”

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—*New York Times Book Review*

Edited by Matt Weiland and Sean Wilentz, *State by State* is a panoramic portrait of <?xml:namespace prefix = st1 ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:smarttags" />America and an appreciation of all fifty states (and Washington, D.C.) by fifty-one of the most acclaimed writers in the nation. Contributors include renowned and bestselling authors such as Louise Erdrich, Jonathan Franzen, Ann Patchett, Anthony Bourdain, William T. Vollmann, S.E. Hinton, Dave Eggers, Myla Goldberg, Rick Moody, and Alexander Payne. Inspired by the Depression-era WPA guides and awarded an “A” grade by *Entertainment Weekly*, these delightful essays on the American character deliver “the full plumage of American life, in all its riotous glory” (*The New Yorker*).



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Without leaving home or spending a cent on gas, readers of this book can enjoy a scenic view of the entire U.S. that is as familiar as it is disorienting. Weiland, deputy editor of the *Paris Review*, and Wilsey, editor-at-large for *McSweeney's*, have gathered a group of 50 disparate voices to explore not just their experience in America, but the way each state was presented in the American Guide series of the Federal Writers Project in the 1930s, in which the Works Project Administration (WPA), as part of F.D.R.'s New Deal, put more than 6000 American writers to work creating a portrait of this country. The editors wanted to make a book inspired by the ideals behind the WPA Guides but they also wanted something more personal, more eccentric, and more partial. Obvious heavy-hitters—Dave Eggers (Illinois), Rick Moody (Connecticut), Jhumpa Lahiri (Rhode Island), Barry Hannah (Mississippi), William T. Vollmann (California)—are included, as well as some wonderful surprises. Alison Bechdel's illustrated story about her life after moving to Vermont brilliantly combines personal history with historical fact, as does Charles Bock's essay on growing up and working in his parent's Las Vegas pawnshop. Mohammed Naseehu Ali's tale of life in Michigan, after moving there from Ghana as a teen, illuminates what the unconditionally generous Michigan nature shares with the traditions of his own Hausa-Islamic culture. And Franzen's imaginary interview with the state of New York is perhaps the high point among this collection of beguiling summations of something all the writers share: a love-hate relationship with how their chosen state has changed and evolved during the course of their lives. (Sept.)

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Review

"[State by State] is a funny, moving, rousing collection, greater than the sum of its excellent parts, a convention of literary superdelegates, each one boisterously nominating his or her piece of the Republic." (New York Times Book Review)

"This fascinating collection, inspired by guides in the 1930s and 1940s, includes original essays on each of the states by some of the country's finest (mostly younger) writers." (Seattle Post-Intelligencer)

"Self-consciously modeled after state guides sponsored by the Federal Writers' Project in the 1930s, this ambitious effort features a terrific roster of writers." (Kirkus Reviews)

"Fascinating." (Seattle Post-Intelligencer)

"Odds are, reading STATE BY STATE, that you'll fall for every state a little, even if they remain tremendously hard to explain." (Los Angeles Times)

"This eclectic collection of essays describing the ordinary people and places within our 50 states is as essential as the Rand McNally atlas. Alternately brash and bashful...each literary foray in State by State is well worth the trip. Grade: A." (Entertainment Weekly)

"An enjoyable journey: 50 essays, cartoons and mini-plays, plus an afterward about Washington, DC and a fascinating appendix...all in all, it makes one yearn for a driver's license and a stretch of open highway." (New York Post)

"Ideal nightstand reading and a welcome reminder of the pluribus behind the unum." (Salon.com)

From the Back Cover

See America with 50 of Our Finest, Funniest, and Foremost Writers Anthony Bourdain chases the fumigation truck in Bergen County, New Jersey

Dave Eggers tells it straight: *Illinois is Number 1*

Louise Erdrich loses her bikini top in North Dakota

Jonathan Franzen gets waylaid by New York's publicist...and personal attorney...and historian...and geologist

John Hodgman explains why there is no such thing as a "Massachusettsean"

Edward P. Jones makes the case: *D.C. should be a state!*

Jhumpa Lahiri declares her reckless love for the Rhode Island coast

Rick Moody explores the dark heart of Connecticut's Merritt Parkway, exit by exit

Ann Patchett makes a pilgrimage to the Civil War site at Shiloh, Tennessee

William T. Vollmann visits a San Francisco S&M club and Many More!

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Thad Whitehead:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important behave, like looking for your favorite e-book and reading a guide. Beside you can solve your problem; you can add your knowledge by the e-book entitled State by State: A Panoramic Portrait of America. Try to the actual book State by State: A Panoramic Portrait of America as your friend. It means that it can for being your friend when you experience alone and beside those of course make you smarter than ever. Yeah, it is very fortunated for yourself. The book makes you far more confidence because you can know every thing by the book. So , we need to make new experience in addition to knowledge with this book.

Anthony Thies:

The event that you get from State by State: A Panoramic Portrait of America is the more deep you searching the information that hide inside the words the more you get enthusiastic about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to know but State by State: A Panoramic Portrait of America giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The copy writer conveys their point in a number of way that can be understood through anyone who read this because the author of this reserve is well-known enough. This book also makes your personal vocabulary increase well. Making it easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We propose you for having this specific State by State: A Panoramic Portrait of America instantly.

Ann Potter:

Information is provisions for people to get better life, information today can get by anyone from everywhere. The information can be a expertise or any news even a problem. What people must be consider if those information which is within the former life are difficult to be find than now's taking seriously which one works to believe or which one typically the resource are convinced. If you have the unstable resource then you have it as your main information you will have huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen in you if you take State by State: A Panoramic Portrait of America as the daily resource information.

Josie Garcia:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition info. Even you love State by State: A Panoramic Portrait of America, you may enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

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