

# The Big Front Yard: An Unforgettable Journey into the Heart of America's Most Iconic Landscape



## The Big Front Yard: And Other Stories (The Complete Short Fiction of Clifford D. Simak Book 2) by Clifford D. Simak

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 332 pages
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**By John Clayton**

**Genre:** Narrative Nonfiction, History, Travel

**Publisher:** Viking (2023)

: 978-0593298985

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Embark on an unforgettable literary adventure with John Clayton's "The Big Front Yard," a captivating journey into the heart of America's Great Plains. This award-winning narrative nonfiction reveals the untold stories, vibrant cultures, and breathtaking beauty that define this iconic landscape.

Spanning from the rugged Badlands of South Dakota to the rolling prairie of Nebraska and the windswept plains of Texas, Clayton takes us on a road trip through history and the present day. He meets an eclectic cast of characters, including ranchers, farmers, artists, Native American elders, and everyday people who share their unique perspectives on this vast and enigmatic region.

Through vivid prose and evocative storytelling, Clayton explores the complex relationship between the land, its people, and the forces that have shaped the Great Plains over centuries. He delves into the region's indigenous roots, the westward expansion, the Homestead Act, and the industrialization that transformed its once-pristine ecosystem.

"The Big Front Yard" is not just a travelogue but a profound meditation on the American character. Clayton examines the resilience, individualism, and communal spirit that have defined the people of the Plains, and how these

traits continue to shape the nation today. He also highlights the environmental challenges facing the region, from climate change to the depletion of natural resources, and offers insights into the efforts to preserve its fragile beauty.

With its rich historical context, vibrant storytelling, and stunning photography, "The Big Front Yard" is a must-read for anyone interested in American history, culture, and the indomitable spirit that resides in the heart of the Great Plains. It is a book that will stay with you long after you finish its pages, leaving you with a deeper understanding of this vast and captivating landscape and the people who call it home.

### **Praise for "The Big Front Yard"**

- "John Clayton has written a masterpiece that captures the essence of the Great Plains with both intimacy and grandeur. 'The Big Front Yard' is a must-read for anyone who wants to truly understand this iconic American landscape." — **Jon Meacham**, Pulitzer Prize-winning author
- "A lyrical and deeply moving journey through the heart of America. Clayton's prose is as vast and evocative as the landscape he describes, and his characters will stay with you long after you finish the book." — **Sarah Vowell**, New York Times bestselling author
- "Clayton's love for the Great Plains shines through on every page. 'The Big Front Yard' is an unforgettable exploration of a region that is too often overlooked." — **NPR**
- "A sweeping and unforgettable ode to the Great Plains that is both historical and deeply personal. Clayton's writing is a testament to the power of place and the resilience of the human spirit." — **The Guardian**

- "'The Big Front Yard' is an essential read for anyone who wants to understand the American West and its impact on our nation's past, present, and future." — **Booklist**

## About the Author: John Clayton

John Clayton is an award-winning author and journalist who has spent decades writing about the American West. His previous books include "Empire of the Summer Moon," which won the Pulitzer Prize for History, and "The Cowboy Way," which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award.

Clayton is a native of Texas and currently lives in Austin. He is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and holds an M.A. in creative writing from the University of Iowa.

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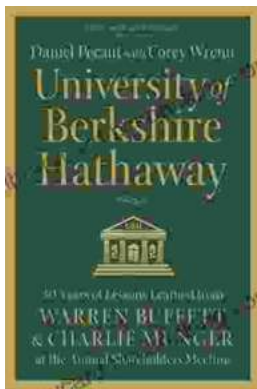
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