

(Library ebook) A tour on the prairies, (The Western series of English and American classics)

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Washington Irving

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Washington Irving : A tour on the prairies, (The Western series of English and American classics) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A tour on the prairies, (The Western series of English and American classics):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great classic of the Old West by a great American writer Washington IrvingBy Thomas EricksonI like reading about the Old West. Time Life has rewritten a great classic by the legendary writer Washington Irving. The 335 page book read great with no boring parts. We see Irving and a group on a 10 week excursion into the far mid west then (Oklahoma). We see the vivid description of rivers, plains and forests. Also great descriptions of life of US Army rangers who traveled with the group. We see an inexperienced young count who gets temporarily lost, a half breed, and a boastful little Frenchman. The reader learns about the Indians, hunting especially Buffalo hunting in the region. This book became an ultimate classic of the Old West and further propelled Irving as one of America's great writers. Anyone interest in life on the prairie in the Old West, Indians, wildlife and great scenery description will like this book. 5 stars2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Early Oklahoma Travel By Renowned Author Washington IrvingBy Frank GadberryWashington Irving touring the area where I live before statehood. This is a journal but the flow of language is unmistakably that of an accomplished author. The pictures painted of Native Americans and settlers in the area, as well as the description of the country where the buffalo roamed is especially well done and the mistreatment of Osage, Creek, and other tribes in the area did not go unnoticed by the author. Good reading!5 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Mangled e-version
By Mary Bishop-Baldwin
My review is of the Kindle version of this book, and the low rating applies solely to that. While the book itself provides a fascinating look at what life was like in the 1830s in the undeveloped area that is now Oklahoma -- where I live -- this conversion to an e-book is completely unacceptable. The reader has to take everything in context and consider the basic shapes of words rather than individual letters in words to make sense of each sentence. My best guess is that someone scanned the pages of the actual book into a program that read them as digital images and then tried to convert them back into words. It failed horribly. But because I was so interested in the topic and was about to attend the "A Day with Washington Irving" re-enactment at the Keystone Ancient Forest near Sand Springs, Okla. -- an area through which the group documented in this book traveled -- I plowed through the text anyway. Having the background was a great help to me as I walked through the Cross Timbers forest and witnessed re-enactors discussing the events and personalities of the trip. I found it especially enlightening to read how Irving described and referred to Indians -- those traveling with his group and those who lived in the territory his group was crossing. He routinely talked about them as "savages" and "half-breeds," even as he talked admiringly of their skills and knowledge. I imagine that the widespread reading of his book by Americans of his day contributed greatly to the stereotypes of and prejudices against American Indians that were perpetuated in this country. Irving spends a great deal of time in the book relating the hunts -- of deer, buffalo, turkeys and even wild horses -- that his group pursued. I'm a wildlife rehabber and a soft-hearted vegetarian, so these depictions were not easy to read. At one point Irving even expressed remorse himself at having shot a buffalo. It was severely wounded but not dead, and before he put it out of its misery, he felt guilty for having harmed the animal, which he considered magnificent in its size, strength and majesty. If you're going to read the book, go ahead and get the print version -- not this e-edition. The mangled text makes it too hard to read.

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About the Author
A Dano-Norwegian writer and playwright, Holberg is considered the founder of Norwegian literature. He contributed to the development of science in the early days of the Age of Enlightenment.