

[Download] Magpie Rising: Sketches from T

## Magpie Rising: Sketches from T

*Merrill Gilfillan*

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**Merrill Gilfillan : Magpie Rising: Sketches from T** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Magpie Rising: Sketches from T:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Collage of field notes . . .By Ronald Scheer This book is a collection of the author's notes, impressions, vignettes, short essays and verbal fragments (he calls them "sketches"). They were written during 1983-86 as Gilfillian crisscrossed the Great Plains from Canada to Texas (he says he drove 50,000 miles), stopping here and there - sometimes in cities and small towns, sometimes off-road - to take out a sharpened pencil and note what was there to be "noticed." Gilfillian is a poet with language, and his perceptions are informed by a wide knowledge of music, literature and civilizations past and present. Each piece can be read multiple times, like poems, to wring more meaning and feeling from them. The stories he draws on from Indian history are often compelling. And I especially enjoyed his longer essay on the Nebraska Sandhills, along with thoughts about the Nebraska writers Willa Cather and Mari Sandoz. Recommended reading for anyone fascinated by the vastness of the high plains and its impact on those who have lived there - in a splendid kind of isolation. Also recommended: Ian Frazier's "Great Plains." 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The best essays By Jill Jamieson This book is the best compilation of words on the great plains that I know of. The author simply leaves you feeling as if you are there. That's what a good read should do.

The rolling, billowing, delicate landscape of Nebraskas Sandhills; the tombstone of Billy the Kid stolen so often that it

must be caged and shackled in Fort Sumner, New Mexico; an intercontinental ballistic missile trundling down a highway under heavy guard in Weld County, Colorado; cottonwoods and cranes, faded hotels and abandoned trailers painted aqua and purple; the ghosts of Pawnees, Cheyennes, and Kiowas and generations of settlers whose descendants now grouse in a caf in Heimdahl, North Dakota, or roar off to a bikers convention in Sturgis, South Dakota. These are some of the things that catch Merrill Gilfillan's eye and ear in this radiant collection of essays.

From Publishers Weekly Poet Gilfillan explored the Great Plains and writes an impressionistic account of the region's landscape and history that is comparable to Edward Abbey's and Gary Nabhan's celebrations of the desert West. This 1989 winner of the PEN/Martha Albrand Award for Nonfiction "will have immense local interest and may kindle a desire among Western buffs to explore the Great Plains," said PW. (Apr.) penny: au name misspelled in orig PW review, acc to catalog galley Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. This is a book to be read as a poet's experiment in prose, slowly and with attention to the language. Sue Hubbell, New York Times Book