



Americana: Dispatches from the New Frontier

Hampton Sides

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Harley-Davidson bikers . . . Grand Canyon river rats. . .Mormon archaeologists. . . Spelling bee prodigies...

For more than fifteen years, best-selling author and historian Hampton Sides has traveled widely across the continent exploring the America that lurks just behind the scrim of our mainstream culture. Reporting for *Outside*, *The New Yorker*, and NPR, among other national media, the award-winning journalist has established a reputation not only as a wry observer of the contemporary American scene but also as one of our more inventive and versatile practitioners of narrative non-fiction.

In these two dozen pieces, collected here for the first time, Sides gives us a fresh, alluring, and at times startling America brimming with fascinating subcultures and bizarre characters who could live nowhere else. Following Sides, we crash the redwood retreat of an apparent cabal of fabulously powerful military-industrialists, drop in on the Indy 500 of bass fishing, and join a giant techno-rave at the lip of the Grand Canyon. We meet a diverse gallery of American visionaries—from the impossibly perky founder of Tupperware to Indian radical Russell Means to skateboarding legend Tony Hawk. We retrace the route of the historic Bataan Death March with veterans from Sides' acclaimed WWII epic, **Ghost Soldiers**. Sides also examines the nation that has emerged from the ashes of September 11, recounting the harrowing journeys of three World Trade Center survivors and deciding at the last possible minute not to "embed" on the Iraqi front-lines with the U.S. Marines. **Americana** gives us a sparkling mosaic of our country today, in all its wild and poignant charm.

Experience the many faces of America with Hampton Sides as he:

AMERICAN ORIGINALS

. . . drops in on the charmed life of skateboarding icon Tony Hawk; studies counter-terrorism at the G. Gordon Liddy spy school; goes Hollywood with American Indian Movement radical-turned-movie-star Russell Means; steps out of the closet with Mel White, religious right ghostwriter-turned-gay activist; mushes the Iditarod Trail with Alaska legend Joe Redington.

AMERICAN EDENS

. . . runs the rapids during a man-made flood in the Grand Canyon; crashes the redwood retreat of California's elite Bohemian Club; debriefs the "bio-nauts" as they emerge from captivity in the Biosphere; dives into America's greatest swimming hole; gets ecstatic with the Zippies at their secret all-night techno-rave.

AMERICAN RIDES

. . . ponders silver bubbles at the annual Airstream RV convention; revs it up at the Harley-Davidson rally in Sturgis, South Dakota; sails the Chesapeake with snooty owners of a rare antique sailboat known as the log canoe; roams the streets with D.C.'s hard-core band of bike couriers.

AMERICAN BY BIRTH, SOUTHERN BY THE GRACE OF . . .

. . . speaks in tongues with black Pentecostalists of the Memphis-based Church of God in Christ; fishes for lunkers at the Bassmasters Classic; goes underground with the world's greatest cave rescuer; unravels the mystery of a notorious teen murder in rural Mississippi.

AMERICANS ABROAD

... crosses the Sahara Desert with American endurance runners at the infernal Marathon des Sables; bushwhacks through MesoAmerica with Mormon archaeologists in search of lost tribes of Israel; visits a high school friend who's become an Uzi-toting Zionist pioneer in the West Bank; walks the route of the Bataan Death March with characters from **Ghost Soldiers**.

AMERICAN OBSESSIONS

... cranks it up with high-end stereophiles at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas; gets bowled over by 5,000 squealing salesladies at the annual Tupperware convention; plumbs the mysteries of the "schwa" at the National Spelling Bee; scrapes at the stucco of the neurotic architectural tradition known as Santa Fe Style.

AMERICA, POST 9/11

... traces the harrowing stories of three World Trade Center survivors; goes off-roading in the Imperial Sand Dunes; almost embeds on the Iraqi frontlines with the U.S. Marines; remembers Shane Childers, the decorated Marine who became the first American combat death in Iraq.



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From reader reviews:

Karen Johnson:

Nowadays reading books become more and more than want or need but also be a life style. This reading addiction give you lot of advantages. The huge benefits you got of course the knowledge the rest of the information inside the book that improve your knowledge and information. The data you get based on what kind of reserve you read, if you want drive more knowledge just go with education books but if you want really feel happy read one with theme for entertaining like comic or novel. Typically the Americana: Dispatches from the New Frontier is kind of publication which is giving the reader unforeseen experience.

Allison Walters:

Playing with family within a park, coming to see the coastal world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try factor that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition details. Even you love Americana: Dispatches from the New Frontier, you could enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still need to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

Sally Rose:

Reading a book to get new life style in this year; every people loves to learn a book. When you learn a book you can get a large amount of benefit. When you read publications, you can improve your knowledge, mainly because book has a lot of information into it. The information that you will get depend on what sorts of book that you have read. If you would like get information about your analysis, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself you are able to a fiction books, this kind of us novel, comics, as well as soon. The Americana: Dispatches from the New Frontier provide you with new experience in studying a book.

Billy Migliore:

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