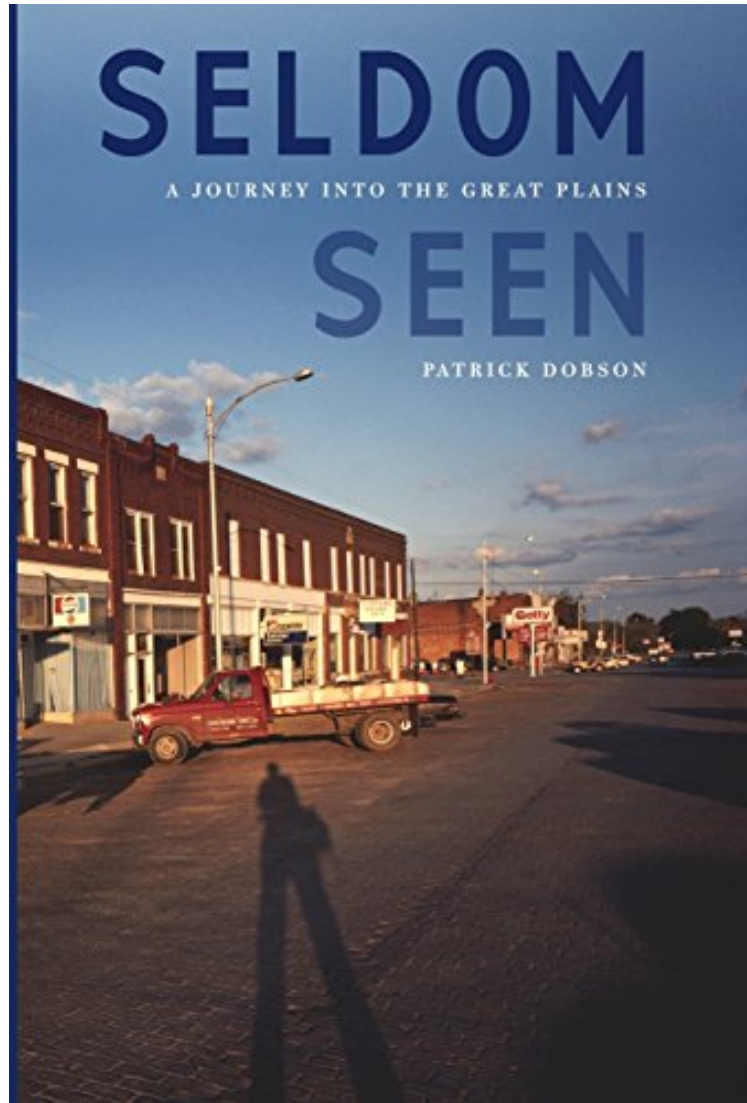


(Free) Seldom Seen: A Journey into the Great Plains

## Seldom Seen: A Journey into the Great Plains

*Patrick Dobson*

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**Patrick Dobson : Seldom Seen: A Journey into the Great Plains** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Seldom Seen: A Journey into the Great Plains:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Overland Trip to the Beginning of the Missouri River By Clif This memoir is an account of the author's 1995 trip from Kansas through Nebraska and Wyoming to Three Forks near Helena, Montana which is generally considered to be the beginning of the Missouri River. The reason for choosing Three Forks as his destination was to begin his trip down the Missouri River in a canoe to his home town, Kansas City, Missouri. This return trip via the river is covered in his second book, Canoeing the Great Plains: A Missouri River

Summer. So in many ways this book serves as a lead up to that book. He set out on this trip walking with a backpack. He did walk much of the distance. However, he did get numerous unsolicited offers of rides, and his gift for gab availed frequent invitations to stay overnight in various people's homes. Traveling this way obviously brought him in close contact with people and the small towns through which he passed and his descriptions provide random portraits of the various people he met along the way. The book thus provides an insight into the sort of folks who live on the American Great Plains. Some generalities I noticed about the people he met are that they are trusting and friendly (at least to a white man of nonthreatening appearance), many of them smoke cigarettes, and many are religiously and politically conservative. The author is from Kansas City coming with a generally more liberal orientation, so in some ways the author is taking the trip on behalf of the curious urban reader who finds this material interesting but who would never want to take this sort of trip themselves. Part of the author's motivation for this cross country trip was to serve as an emotional reset in his life. He wanted a break from his life of work, eat, sleep and more work. Therefore this experience was to serve as more than a vacation. He wanted a new life. As a reader I was the least interested in this emotional striving part of the book. But this isn't the first book written by an author trying to recover from emotional upheaval in their personal lives. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. I could use a journey of self-discovery. By Carl D. Nelson I see many parallels between my existence and the one portrayed in *Seldom Seen*, minus the trek through the Great Plains, and the self-discovery part. I guess that leaves me with the daily grind of a job and the dumb, plodding pursuit of trying to create wealth. I felt drawn to the idea of a journey, and I respect the author's courage to undertake it. I found myself laughing out loud at times, and a bit anxious at others. The descriptions caused me to create my own images, which were almost palpable. I felt like these were places I had been before. The author goes beyond narration and unabashedly shares intimate details of his thoughts and feelings. Loved it. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. *Journey of Discovery*. By Grahame A. Williams Not since I read Kerouac have I wanted to pack my bag and hit the road. Dobson's walking adventure isn't just about walking from KC MO via Nebraska, Wyoming and on to Helena Montana - it's about the funny, strange and generous people he discovers on this journey but most importantly the re-discovering of himself. I thoroughly recommend this book to anyone who has 'hit the road' or wanted to. Be careful though as by books end you may find yourself kissing your love ones goodbye and setting off yourself. Pack this book if you do! Now where did I put my backpack?

In May 1995, with nothing but a backpack and a vague sense of disquiet, Patrick Dobson left his home and a steady if deadening job in Kansas City, Missouri. Over the next two and a half months he made his way to Helena, Montana, letting chance encounters guide him to a deeper sense of who he was and where he was going. His chronicle of this journey charts his experiences with the seldom-seen people of the small towns, the far-flung outposts, and the Great Plains that make up our America.

With open eyes and open heart, Patrick Dobson shows us the heart of the nation. David Shribman, executive editor of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and syndicated columnist with Universal Press