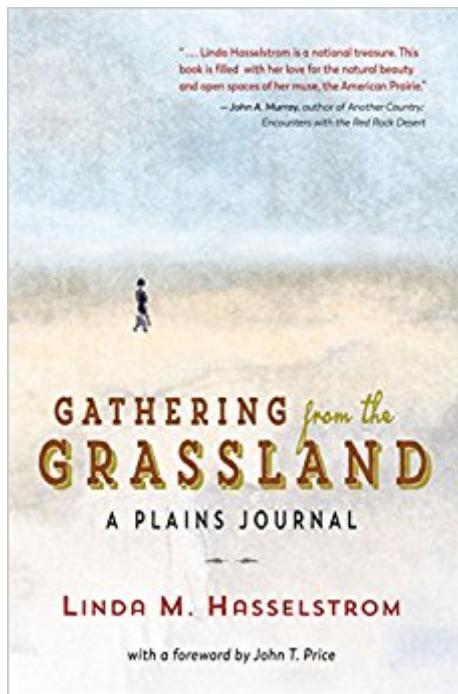


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Gathering From The Grassland



Synopsis

Nature writer, poet, and longtime leader in land stewardship, Linda M. Hasselstrom examines several generations of family diaries searching for an understanding of her ancestors and for direction in planning for the future of the plains ranch which has been in the family for over a century. Moving through the days of a year, she is never afraid to show the reader the most difficult thing of all the truth of her life. The portrait that emerges is of a woman who makes peace with life's complexities and finds joy in honoring the plains and its people and animals. Ever the nature writer at heart, Hasselstrom crafts miniature essays on plains animals including antelope, owls, badgers, snakes, buffalo, and cattle. She also delves into rural community dynamics, death and aging, family, and the work of a writer.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Linda Hasselstrom's lyrical journal grows, organically, out of a passionate love for the land, the land's creatures, and the land's people, present and part of her personal past. This enduring, endearing litany of a year in the life of a writer, a poet, and a rancher takes us deep into the heart of what it means to belong to a place, to live a deeply-rooted life to grow old with the land and to remain young with it, too. A precious glimpse into a year richly, uniquely, profoundly lived. --Susan Wittig Albert: author of *Together, Alone: A Memoir of Marriage and Place*, and other memoirs, historical fiction, and mysteries, including the China Bayles series This book is a rumination on the daily lives of an extraordinary writer-rancher, on the folk who raised her, and on the many ways physical and spiritual in which grass has sustained them and their cattle on this daunting South Dakota land. Hasselstrom's new journal, created day by day over an entire year, one blade at a time, unfolds like

a new season's grasses. On the horizon, encircling everything she has seen, are echoes from the past. In offering a companion volume to her thirty-year-old *Windbreak*, Hasselstrom brings her prairie to life and puts her own self, and her forebears, under the microscope and makes sense of what once seemed chaotic. --Alan Wilkinson: British author who writes of the American Plains author of *The Red House on the Niobrara* and other books

Linda M. Hasselstrom owns a small family ranch in western South Dakota. Her seventeen published books of poetry and nonfiction include *Feels Like Far: A Rancher's Life on the Great Plains*, autobiographical essays. Cultural anthropologist Richard Nelson, author of *Patriotism and the American Land*, said of *Feels Like Far*: Linda Hasselstrom knows the land, feels the land, breathes the land, as only a child of the land can do. Her heart was carved by the South Dakota wind. Her bones were made from the South Dakota soil. When Linda Hasselstrom writes, it is the South Dakota prairies writing their own stories. . . . [her] writing is like a black Dakota night riven by lightning flashes and bursts of rain, full of fury and power and raw, brilliant beauty. With the Great Plains Native Plant Society, Hasselstrom dedicated the Claude A. Barr Memorial Great Plains Garden in 2001 to preserve native shortgrass prairie plants on 350 acres of her ranch, and the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies established a riparian protection area on her land along Battle Creek.

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