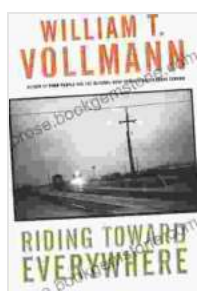


# Riding Toward Everywhere: William Vollmann's Epic Journey Across the United States

William Vollmann's *Riding Toward Everywhere* is an epic journey across the United States, a meditation on history, violence, and the American dream. It is a must-read for anyone interested in American history, literature, or travel writing.



## Riding Toward Everywhere by William T. Vollmann

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 3409 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 290 pages



Vollmann's journey begins in San Francisco and ends in New York City. Along the way, he travels through some of the most iconic and troubled landscapes in the country, including the Great Plains, the Deep South, and the American West. He meets a wide range of people, from truck drivers to farmers to Native Americans. And he witnesses firsthand the violence and inequality that have shaped American history.

Vollmann is a gifted writer, and his prose is both lyrical and unflinching. He is not afraid to confront the dark side of American history, but he also finds

beauty and hope in the people and places he encounters. *Riding Toward Everywhere* is a powerful and moving book that will stay with you long after you finish it.

## **The Journey**

Vollmann's journey begins in San Francisco in 1983. He is a young man in his early twenties, and he is looking for adventure. He has read about the great American explorers, and he dreams of following in their footsteps.

Vollmann sets out on his journey with a backpack full of supplies and a bicycle. He travels through California, Oregon, and Washington, and then turns east toward the Great Plains. He follows the route of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and he visits many of the same places that they did.

As Vollmann travels across the country, he begins to learn about the history of violence that has shaped the United States. He visits the site of the Wounded Knee Massacre, and he talks to Native Americans about the genocide that they have suffered. He learns about the lynchings of African Americans in the South, and he witnesses the poverty and despair that many Americans live in.

Vollmann's journey is not just about violence. He also finds beauty and hope in the people and places he encounters. He meets kind and generous people who are willing to help him on his journey. He sees the beauty of the American landscape, and he learns about the resilience of the American people.

## **The People**

Vollmann meets a wide range of people on his journey, from truck drivers to farmers to Native Americans. He learns about their lives and their struggles, and he comes to understand the diversity of the American experience.

One of the most memorable people that Vollmann meets is a truck driver named Dave. Dave is a kind and generous man who helps Vollmann on his journey. He gives him food and money, and he even lets him sleep in his truck.

Vollmann also meets many Native Americans on his journey. He learns about their history and their culture, and he comes to understand the challenges that they face.

Vollmann's encounters with these people help him to understand the complexity of the American experience. He learns that there is no one "American" identity, but rather a rich diversity of cultures and experiences.

## **The Landscape**

Vollmann travels through some of the most iconic and troubled landscapes in the United States. He sees the beauty of the Great Plains, the Deep South, and the American West. But he also sees the scars of history, such as the sites of the Wounded Knee Massacre and the lynchings of African Americans.

Vollmann's descriptions of the American landscape are both lyrical and unflinching. He captures the beauty of the land, but he also confronts the violence and inequality that have shaped it.

## **The Violence**

Vollmann does not shy away from confronting the violence that has shaped American history. He visits the site of the Wounded Knee Massacre, and he talks to Native Americans about the genocide that they have suffered. He learns about the lynchings of African Americans in the South, and he witnesses the poverty and despair that many Americans live in.

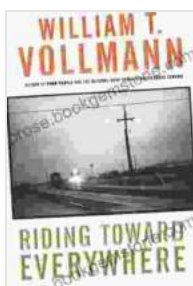
Vollmann's account of violence is unflinching, but it is also compassionate. He does not sensationalize violence, but rather he shows how it has shaped the lives of Americans.

## The American Dream

Vollmann's journey is also a meditation on the American dream. He meets people who have achieved the American dream, and he meets people who have been left behind. He learns that the American dream is not always attainable, but it is still a powerful force in American society.

Vollmann's account of the American dream is both hopeful and tragic. He believes that the American dream is still worth striving for, but he also knows that it is not always possible to achieve.

William Vollmann's *Riding Toward Everywhere* is a powerful and moving book that will stay with you long after you finish it. It is a must-read for anyone interested in American history, literature, or travel writing.



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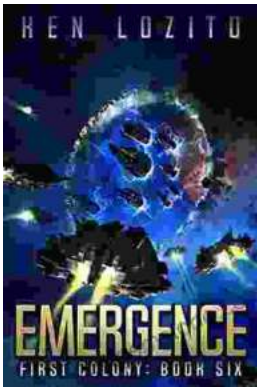
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