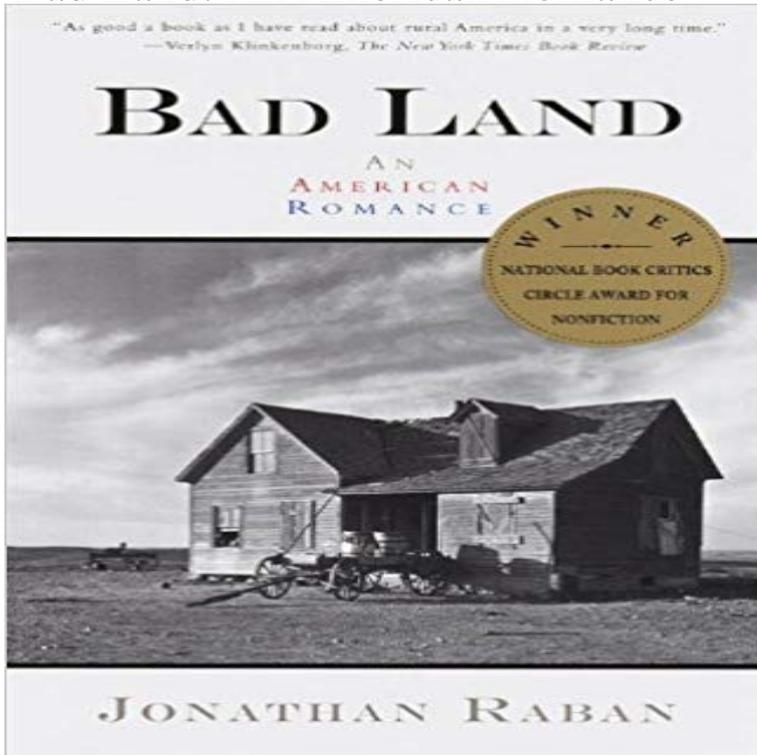


# Bad Land: An American Romance



A New York Times Editors Choice for Book of the Year Winner of the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Award Winner of the PEN West Creative Nonfiction Award No one has evoked with greater power the marriage of land and sky that gives this country both its beauty and its terror. --Washington Post Book World In 1909 maps still identified eastern Montana as the Great American Desert. But in that year Congress, lobbied heavily by railroad companies, offered 320-acre tracts of land to anyone bold or foolish enough to stake a claim to them. Drawn by shamelessly inventive brochures, countless homesteaders--many of them immigrants--went west to make their fortunes. Most failed. In *Bad Land*, Jonathan Raban travels through the unforgiving country that was the scene of their dreams and undoing, and makes their story come miraculously alive. In towns named Terry, Calypso, and Ismay (which changed its name to Joe, Montana, in an effort to attract football fans), and in the landscape in between, Raban unearths a vanished episode of American history, with its own ruins, its own heroes and heroines, its own hopeful myths and bitter memories. Startlingly observed, beautifully written, this book is a contemporary classic of the American West. Exceptional... A beautifully told historical meditation. --Time Championship prose... In fifty years dont be surprised if *Bad Land* is a landmark. --Los Angeles Times

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American Romance by Jonathan Raban Bad Land, Rabans new book about Montana, examines the present remains andBad Land: An American Romance is a travelogue of Jonathan Rabans research, over a two-year period, into the settlement of southeastern Montana in the earlyBad Land: An American Romance [Jonathan Raban] on . \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. A New York Times Editors Choice for Book of theEditorial Reviews. Review. Part history, part modern-day travelogue, Bad Land attempts to locate the dry plains of eastern Montana and theBad Land: An American Romance. Jonathan Raban, Author Vintage Books USA \$15.95 (364p) ISBN 978-0-679-75906-5