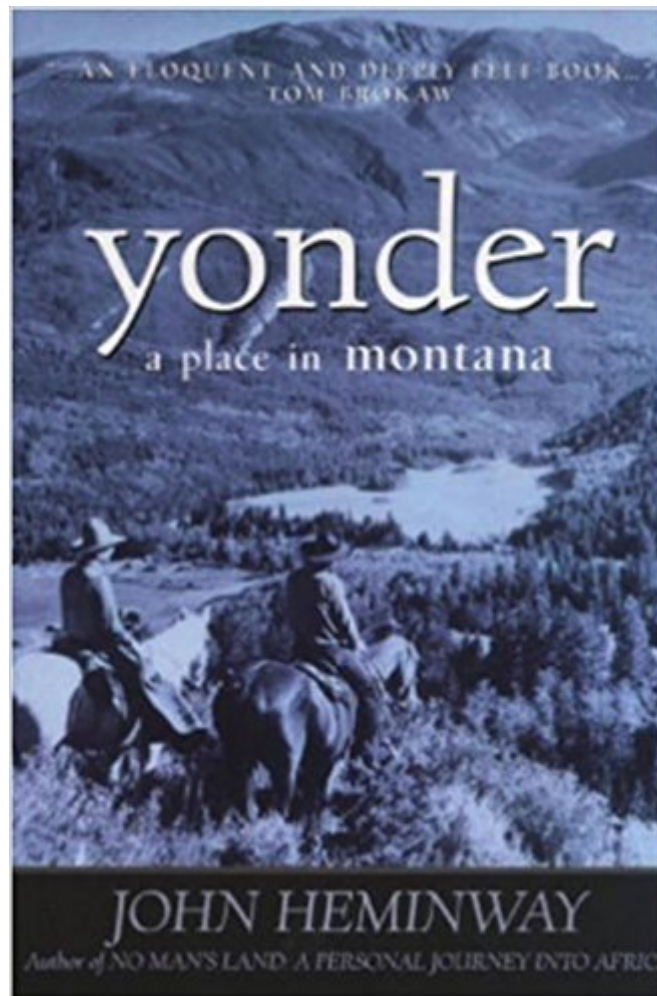




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# Yonder: A Place In Montana (Adventure Press)



## Synopsis

This affecting memoir tells the story behind the Bar 20, Heminway's 36-acre ranch, and his search for traces of the ranch's former owners. Photos.

## Book Information

Series: Adventure Press

Hardcover: 304 pages

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## Customer Reviews

Already acclaimed for his outstanding writings on Africa, Heminway has discovered a new land of natural splendor and human adventure: Montana. In purchasing a 36-acre ranch (the Bar 20) in the West Boulder Valley, Heminway acquired a piece of geography as beautiful yet treacherous as any African veldt. But he also bought into a tangled history that is distinctly American. Previous owners of this homestead left a tantalizing trail of clues as to their lives of heroic daring--and cruel illusions. Heminway invests his greatest effort in probing the lives of Stanley and Lucille "Bab" Cox--the "fountainhead dreamers"--transplanted Easterners who made a gutsy, 18-year stand on this unforgiving terrain. Yet if the fortitude of this mysterious pair conceals some dark secrets, so, too, do the brave cowboy legends of the earlier white settlers who took the land from the Crow, the Sioux, the Cheyenne, and other tribes, so destroying their way of life. The ghosts of these tragically displaced peoples still move with their ancient dignity through this stirring celebration of the magnificent land they once called theirs. Bryce ChristensenCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Patrick Hemingway A high-resolution scan of post-Amerindian Montana, beautifully written with

great insights, it's a must read for understanding the New West. -- Review

I gave it as a gift and didn't read it so can't attest to the book itself.

This book is written about the area where I live by a man I know personally..... very well written and a good overview of our "Paradise in the Mountains". Thank you .com for making John's book available, a good read.Montana Grandma

"Yonder" (subtitled "A Place in Montana") by John Hemingway is an untidy book, but one I still recommend to readers interested in the west. Hemingway is an expert on Africa, a producer of documentary films for PBS, a writer, and a Montana "hobby rancher". Noel Perrin used the phrase "hobby farmer" to identify people who buy farms in Vermont in order to feel connected with the soil and the hardy Yankee yeomen who till it, but who continue to derive most of their income from some other source. The book relates Hemingway's experiences after he and members of his family purchase first a ranch in central Montana and then a 36-acre mountain retreat, named the Bar 20, north of Yellowstone Park. He interweaves events and observations from his own life in Montana with his search for information about the previous owners of the Bar 20. One of the pleasures of the book is Hemingway's gift for vivid word snapshots of people he encounters in Montana. His filmmaker's eye rests briefly on organic rancher Tom Elliott, BLM archeologist Michael Kyte, outfitter Larry Lahren, horse whisperer Ray Hunt, ranch foreman Floyd Cowles, teepee manufacturer Don Ellis, and his motley neighbors in the Boulder River valley. The sketches are illuminations of ordinary lives rather than (à la Annie Proulx) a lepidopterological display of "characters". The book's other strength is the mini-biography of Stanley and Bab Cox, easterners like Hemingway, who owned the Bar 20 from 1933 to 1951 and who, unlike Hemingway, resided there continuously except for the war years. Hemingway's determined and ingenious research has unearthed a story worthy of a novel. "Yonder", published by the National Geographic Society Adventure Press, is the worst-edited book I have encountered in some time. It is rife with typos: missing quotation marks, uncapitalized proper names, "souh" for "south", "there's" for "theirs", "Yate's" for "Yates'", "shooting match" for "shouting match", and a missing negative that turns a sentence about organic farming into nonsense. It is also guilty of dubious or incorrect word usage. Examples: three sheets of paper become in the next paragraph three sheaves of paper; a hinged bookcase hiding a door is called "trompe l'oeil". And what is one to make of this sentence? "While grounds for abandoning a six-year-old child seem inconceivable, we can speculate he justified his decision because, perhaps,

he felt rejected by the Hydies, who clearly had never warmed to a man they regarded as a diffident provider, husband, and father."Hemingway grafts a couple of self-contained essays (previously published articles?) onto the stalk of his narrative. They deal with native American activities in other parts of the state and artist Winold Reiss. These are interesting in their own right, but anti-climactic after the drama of the Cox research."Yonder" will save future owners of the Bar 20 the trouble of playing detective in order to find out what John Hemingway was doing and thinking during his days in Montana.

John Heminway's hippie-commune-turned-subdivision is an environmental and community tragedy, but he and his trust fund find it a paradise. This book is instructive for its unintentional exposition of the hypocrisy, condescension, and self-absorption that the super-rich bring to "their" Montana. But if you know anything about the state, it's truly painful to read. Not just in need of the most basic proofreader, the book contains dozens of factual errors. (I was particularly surprised that National Geographic would place the Missouri River in Fargo.) Not only does Heminway blandly repeat the same old stories, but in getting them wrong (not only does he botch the story of Charlie Russell's painting "Waiting for a Chinook," he even inflates its alternate title from "Last of the 5,000" to "Last of the 10,000") he does a tremendous disservice to anyone who would find this representative of Montana. Avoid this book! If you want to read about this region, read Mark Spragg's "Where Rivers Change Direction" -- not only a more accurate book, but a truly eloquent memoir.

I loved Yonder. It is the story of John Heminway's search to uncover the history of a ranch in a beautiful Montana valley. John and his sister, Hilary, bought the ranch soon after they had found it with the help of a knowledgeable agent. As Yonder unfolds I fell under its enchantment and could not put it down until I found out what John had discovered through his search for its past owners. However, Yonder is more than a paean to Montana as moving as Ivan Doig's *This House of Sky* or Rick Bass's *Seven Mile Wolves*. It is also the story of the author's search for peace and joy. This is heartfelt book should fascinate those who enjoy interesting people and unique places.

Very pretentious writing. Just another city slicker trying to fit himself into the story of the West without truly understanding the West.

This is the biography of a place. John Heminway and his sister, in search of a western Montana fishing cabin for their family, purchase a run-down cabin that had once been part of a 2,000-acre

ranch called the Bar 20. This book is about Heminway's experiences there and, mostly, about the history he discovers of the people who had been there before. It is the story of Montana as a place of dreams and disappointments and of vivid yearning memory.

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