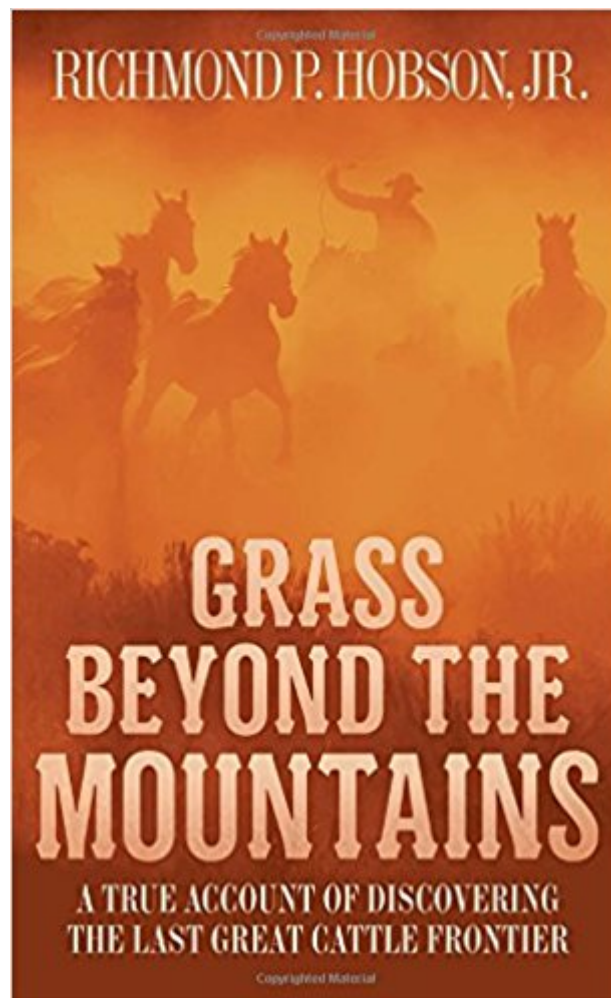




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Grass Beyond The Mountains: Discovering The Last Great Cattle Frontier



Synopsis

The first in a trilogy, *Grass Beyond the Mountains* is a story of discovery and endurance on North America's western frontier by three good old-fashioned cowboys. With laconic cowboy humor and the ease of a born writer, Richmond Hobson describes the life-and-death escapades, the funny and tragic incidents peopled with extraordinary frontier characters, in a true adventure that surpasses the most thrilling Wild West fiction. In the fall of 1934, three cowhands with a dream of owning a cattle ranch made their way from peaceful Wyoming to the harsh, uncharted territory of the British Columbian interior. In conditions as challenging as any encountered by the western frontier pioneers of a hundred years earlier, the three men and their equipment-laden horses conquered the tortuous miles over narrow passes and mountain summits, hewed their first cabin from virgin timber, and attempted to carve out a space for themselves on the unforgiving landscape. Gritty, fun, and endlessly entertaining, Hobson's story is sure to entertain country- and city-dwellers alike.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Richmond P. Hobson Jr. (1907-1966) was born in Washington, DC, where he worked with pack outfits, survey crews, and construction gangs, saving, all the while, to buy a cattle ranch. He came to Canada after the stock market crash of the late 1920s. He and his business partner, Panhandle "Pan" Phillips, moved to the interior of British Columbia and established the Frontier Cattle Company in the 1930s. He later married his wife, Gloria, moved to Vanderhoof, British Columbia, and continued ranching while writing about his experiences. Other books by Hobson are *Nothing*

Too Good for a Cowboy and The Rancher Takes a Wife.

I can hardly contain my excitement and rein in my enthusiasm to reasonable levels when it comes to wanting to tell everyone about Richmond P. Hobson Jr's book *Grass Beyond the Mountains*. This reads like a historic novel, but it is all an actual, personal account of Hobson and his partner Panhandle (Top Hand) Phillips' white knuckle adventures - much lived on the edge of death - in the wild-west wilderness of northern British Columbia to fulfill their dream of building one of the largest cattle empires in the world! There has always been a part of what or who I am that has always dreamed of being a cowboy. These roots go back to when I strapped on my cap-pistol six-shooter and played Cowboys and Indians, and reached to Wyoming, at the foot of the Big Horn Mountains where I was privileged to participate in a real-life cattle round up and drive, ending in the branding and castration, which is much dirtier and dustier and dangerous than is depicted on the big screen, believe me! I have slept out under the stars in Utah with our horse picketed near-by. But nothing, nothing buried deep inside me, I do believe, would have ever enabled me to endure the hardships, facing Grizzlies, preparing for attacks from dozens of the notorious black wolves, whose existence is disbelieved by, probably the majority of the population. Wolves as big as a black bear with weights surpassing 225 pounds and which can leap 15 feet in two feet of snow to bring down a bull moose! I have lived in 47 below zero weather in Montana, but not out in the wilderness on horseback riding in pitch blackness all night around a herd of cattle. The real life adventures of these two men, in my estimation, surpass the courageous and daring accomplishments of most human beings! These were men! Real men! Throughout the book you find the continual thread of the reality of man's dependence upon horses for even his own existence in times of peril. You are introduced to the beauty of real relationships of friendship and trust that exist between horses with "individual personality, (and with) good and bad points." You will have your imagination breathless by the description of the millions upon millions of acres of pristine wilderness, which once discovered became the ground for this remarkable human achievement. I hated finding I had reached the last page but knew immediately that I will now order the next book which continues the real-life drama, titled, *Nothing Too Good For A Cowboy* and then probably, *The Rancher Takes a Wife*. While Rich Hobson was the real life cowboy, adventurer who lived this life, he writes like a gifted popular author. You feel his frost bit feet, you shiver at the cry of these giant killer wolves circle the camp; you gasp as the waters under the frozen ice suck you and your cattle and horses down into the freezing deep hole where the river meets the lake; you freeze as you stare down a Grizzly; you hold your breath as you and your horse and cattle gamble on walking across the ice crust with 20 feet of

snow beneath, ready to trap and suffocate you if the ice crust breaks. You live this story as you read it! Do buy it. Read it to your children. Find the living reality of being a real cowboy back in the 1930's. And never losing hold of your dream! You'll be glad you did.

The book included a great deal of detail about the geography of British Columbia, the scenery, vegetation and also about the horses, their names, their behavior, trail ride struggles, etc. I think it was important to include all this because the book is a historical record of these frontiersmen's foray into BC to start a cattle ranch. However, for me it was a lot of extra reading which didn't interest me. The book seemed long, and I skimmed near the end. Rememeber, 3 stars means, "It's OK!"

finally a real life settling of the west, this should be mandatory reading by all school age children, these renditions of what can be accomplished through hard work and perseverance could be the ground work of teaching todays young people that there was more to making their lives worth while if you could understand that these hardy pioneers opened up the glorious landscape and left a legacy for todays generations that can be preserved in more ways than pushing buttons on a keyboard. in real life blood sweat and tears go a long way towards understanding what it takes to being real men and women.

This was a riveting and true account of the trials and tribulations surrounding visionaries of the 1930's cattle business in a land so isolated but full of potential. My husband and I own and operate a successful cattle operation in Wyoming, a land not so different in climate and issues from the area in the book. This book was relevant to us in that almost every incident the characters in the book encountered, over the course of 47 years here, we've encountered as well. If one chooses to read this book, the first of a trilogy, it is my hope you will enjoy it as much as we did and leave with a better understanding of the cattle industry, where your food comes from, and why we love this lifestyle. Times have changed and methods of operation have improved along with technology and modes of transportation, but it was fun to read about the choices made back then. We enjoyed this book and can't wait to pick up the next one...as soon as the ranch work slows a little.

This was a fascinating book about cattle ranching in the far north. The hardships were extreme but were overcome. Written by an exuberant young man. Hard to put down, kept wanting to know what would happen next.

Grass Beyond the Mountains is the story of two American Cowboys who head to northern British Columbia and start cattle ranching. It details their struggles—getting the right clothes, dealing with angry moose, finding food, and dealing with the local Indians. It is an entertaining book to read.

The reading was easy, the scenery well explained. Cowboys are the hardiest of men and certainly love their adventures. Well done

I couldn't put it down--and when I finished Grass Beyond the Mountains, I immediately started to read the next book in the series, Nothing Too Good for a Cowboy. I read during meals, at red lights, in bed when I should have had the light off. Knowing this book was fact, not fiction, made it hit harder. These men faced incredible challenges with grit and determination and cockamamie optimism. A fast-paced and fascinating read.

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