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James Evans, Robert Draper

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James Evans, Robert Draper : Big Bend Pictures before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Big Bend Pictures:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great stuffBy Stir FryerA real treat for the Big Bend fan. James Evans really captured the essence of the local residents. Also, Berkman Books was great! When the shipping label was damaged and the book returned to sender, Berkman contacted me, explained the situation and then shipped by priority mail.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Stunning!By KTBWest Texas at it's best! James Evans' photos are stunning. If you are from Texas, or even if you are not, you will love Big Bend Pictures. This book is a perfect gift for yourself or for someone special.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy LTBeautiful and interesting photographs that add depth and contrast to Crazy From The Heat.

Winner, Rounce Coffin Club Western Books Exhibition, 2004Southwest Book Award, Border Regional Library Association, 2003It takes a long time to get to know the Big Bend. Just to look at all the mountains and canyons and desert horizons can take weeks of driving and hiking. And to get acquainted with the independent, self-contained, slightly quirky people who call this place home ...well, that can take a lifetime. James Evans understands that. Recalling his decision to make the Big Bend his artistic muse and photographic subject, he says, "I moved here in 1988 to dedicate my life to the Big Bend and its people. I don't shoot pictures and leave and make a book. This work is a slow accumulation of years of being here. The mountains are familiar friends and the people my heroes. I am one of

them."In this book, James Evans records the landscapes and the people of the Big Bend in all their beauty, harshness, and character. Images such as "South Rim with Agave," "Eyes of the Chisos," and "The Road to Candelaria" capture the distances, openness, and rough loveliness that draw people to this remote part of the Texas-Mexico border. Evans's photographs of people—legendary ranchwoman Hallie Stillwell, Kickapoo girls at a ceremonial dance, national park superintendent Ross Maxwell, school boys in Boquillas, Mexico, to mention only a few—show a deeply felt, but anti-sentimental understanding of his Big Bend neighbors. Other images, such as "Snake and Jesus," "Drug Blimp," and "Rope-O-Matic" reveal the whimsical, offbeat sensibility that sets Evans apart from others who have photographed the Big Bend. Also included are equally distinctive "Notes and Stories," in which Evans talks about how he came to photograph each particular person and each place and what they mean to him. Robert Draper's foreword pinpoints why Evans's work has such irresistible appeal. In his words, "The photographs of James Evans celebrate the unburnished beauty of Big Bend country as a way of celebrating the free spirit. I see no way out of voicing the cliché: this is a deeply life-affirming collection."

"Resisting the temptation of melon-hued sunsets, Evans works with documentary-style black-and-white photography. The landscapes he captures are not simply blasé, wide-angle homages to the hallowed frontier: they reveal Big Bend's quirks and bemused attitudes, suggesting the hitherto blasphemous—namely, that the American West can have a sense of humor, and at times be downright weird. Above all, Evans is exposing beauty from its proper angles. To see Big Bend through his eyes is to gaze upon an altogether alien world, and in so doing, to feel our innocence reawaken." (Robert Draper) "Resisting the temptation of melon-hued sunsets, Evans works with documentary-style black-and-white photography. The landscapes he captures are not simply blasé, wide-angle homages to the hallowed frontier: they reveal Big Bend's quirks and bemused attitudes, suggesting the hitherto blasphemous—namely, that the American West can have a sense of humor, and at times be downright weird. Above all, Evans is exposing beauty from its proper angles. To see Big Bend through his eyes is to gaze upon an altogether alien world, and in so doing, to feel our innocence reawaken." (Robert Draper) About the Author James Evans of Marathon, Texas, has been photographing the landscape and people of the Big Bend since 1988. His work has appeared in many national magazines and is in collections at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center of the University of Texas at Austin, the Beaumont Museum of Art, the Art Museum of South Texas, the El Paso Museum of Art, and the Southwestern Writers Collection at Southwest Texas State University, as well as in many private collections.