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# Book Review: Yoknapatawpha: Images and Voices: A Photographic Study of Faulkner's Country with Passages from Classic William Faulkner Texts

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Stewart, George G. *Yoknapatawpha: Images and Voices: A Photographic Study of Faulkner's Country with Passages from Classic William Faulkner Texts*. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 2009. ISBN 978-1-57003. \$49.95 hardcover, \$24.95 paperback.

Retired academic librarian and talented photographer George G. Stewart's book *Yoknapatawpha: Images and Voices* presents a stunning survey of Faulkner's landscapes and locales.

Through his dramatic black-and-white photography, Stewart illustrates many of the most famous settings of Faulkner's fictional works, pairing each photograph with a well-chosen and relevant quotation from the appropriate novel or story. Stewart's goal is to stay true to the spirit, not necessarily the exact physical locations, of Faulkner's settings. To accomplish this he does not limit himself solely to the section of northern Mississippi that is traditionally associated with the imaginary county Yoknapatawpha. Even as early as the end of Faulkner's lifetime much of the rural landscape of this area had already been much altered by progress, and Faulkner himself recognized and mourned these changes. Instead, Stewart seeks out places throughout rural Mississippi and other parts of the deep South that, to him, are still evocative of the spirit of the novels and stories. He expertly searches out the ideal illustrations for Faulkner's words, giving modern readers a glimpse into the bygone world that was Faulkner's inspiration in order to assist them in understanding and appreciating Faulkner's work on an even deeper level.

Though there have been other photographic surveys of Faulkner's imagined county in the past (notably Dain 1967 and Morris and Eggleston 1990), Stewart's photographs, shot between the years 1989 and 1999, are made even more compelling because of their currency. The pictures offer undeniable proof to Faulkner aficionados everywhere that even though Faulkner lived and wrote more than 60 years ago, real-world traces of the places and vistas that inspired his imaginary Yoknapawpha, though fast disappearing, still do exist in the modern world.

This book is recommended for all libraries with collections in Southern literature and history, and should be popular with students as well as casual readers of Faulkner's works.

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