

Rising from the Plains By John McPhee **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** 0374520658
Western history.

Rising from the Plains kindle

While studying general Wyoming history I learned by happy happenstance of John McPhee's 1986 book *Rising From the Plains* which unfolds the geological story of the state from the perspective of those American Western pioneers and their descendants who have inhabited the land for the last century. **Rising from the Plains kindle** I know I'll want to refer back to specific discussions so I ended up making my own brief index including topics such as selenium Laramide Orogeny Never Summer Mountains (in Colorado) Hayden (and watercress) trona antelope trap . **Rising from the Plains kindle** And here's one quote:p 195 Before the federal Bureau of Reclamation built a dam there Flaming Gorge was one of the scenic climaxes of the American West -- a 700 ft canyon in arching Triassic red beds so bright they did indeed suggest flame. **Rising from the Plains kindle** 0374520658 "Had this been a May morning a hundred million years ago in Cretaceous time we would have been many fathoms underwater in a broad arm of the sea which covered the continental platform—reached across the North American craton the Stable Interior Craton—from the Gulf of Mexico to the Arctic Ocean where vegetation flourished in coastal swamps. **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** " "The spread of time at Rawlins like the rock column in a great many places in Wyoming was so impressively detailed that it seemed to suggest that Wyoming in its one-thirty-seventh of the United States contains a disproportionate percentage of American geology. **Rising from the Plains kindle** " "That the one was in fact directly on top of the other was a nomenclatural Tower of Babel that contained in its central paradox the narrative of the Rockies: the burial of the ranges the subsequent uplifting of the entire region the exhumation of the mountains. **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** As if to emphasize all that people had not only named this single mountain range as if it were two but also bestowed upon the highest summit of the Snowy Range the name Medicine Bow Peak. **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** I fell in love with geology in Utah and ultimately that geology is a little more easy to digest since the Colorado Plateau is a little like a raft immune to the warping and obscuring mountain building of the Rockies so it did take me a while to even read more about the Rockies being super intimidated. **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** And I can tell you there is a moment when you transfer from I-25 to I-80 at Cheyenne and the way the road is built you feel you are flying into the sky the great western giant electric sky and it is sacred harmonic experience. **Rising from the Plains kindle** McPhee continues with great imagery of snapshots of time which I loved about this section; there was a lot about the history of the geologist's family which is a stunning portrait of frontier life but what I know of Wyoming what it became from that I fear colors my reading of it and I just can't embrace the warm and happy mythologizing he does. **Rising from the Plains kindle paperwhite** " To the question "What lifted the Colorado Plateau the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountain platform?" the answer given by this theory is "The plumes of Raton and Yellowstone. **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** "The Colorado Plateau lies between the two hot-spot tracks and Morgan believes that their combined influence is what lifted it setting up the hydraulic energy that has etched out the canyonlands. **Rising from the Plains kindle** Actually contiguous with Miocene remains that extend far into Nebraska it is the only place between Mexico and Canada where the surface that covered the mountains still reaches up to a summit. **Rising from the Plains kindle** Yet this one piece of the Great Plains—extremely narrow but still intact—extends like a finger and as ever touches the mountain core: the pink deroofed Precambrian granite the top of the range. **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** As you go from Chicago west soil diminishes in thickness and fertility and when you get to the gangplank and up here on top of the Laramie Range there is virtually none Love said. **Rising from the Plains kindle** It was a wind embellished with gusts but over all it was primordially steady: a consistent southwest wind which had been blowing that way not just through human history but in every age since the creation of the mountains - a record written clearly in wind -

scored rock. **Rising from the Plains kindle** Possibly some went to Hudson Bay but in one dust storm several years ago a great deal of debris from Kansas and Nebraska and Colorado went into the Atlantic—a storm that lasted only a couple of days. **Rising from the Plains kindle books** " And so as we plunged down Telephone Canyon the interstate was tilting less than the rock of the roadcuts and the red sandstone yielded gradually interstitially to the younger limestones until the sandstone was gone altogether and we were moving through the floor of an ocean. **Rising from the Plains kindle books** "My other resonant memory is of travelling I-80 from San Francisco to Philly on a cross country trip; we drove and drove across Wyoming waiting for the Rockies to appear and waiting and waiting. **Rising from the Plains kindle** Who knew it would only take me about 10 more years to know that area when my brother and his family lived in Laramie? It is a time spanning time travel moment when I still go there for some holidays with his inlaws. **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** How did this piece of land escape the Exhumation of the Rockies yes the official title of the mountain event less an mountain building (orogeny) than a revealing (epeirogeny)? I am still not sure so have to imagine the experts aren't either. **Rising from the Plains kindle app** So divide 147197952000 by 24 and you get 6133248000 which means that in the year 2000 when the world population reached 6 billion we'd all have fit in a cubic mile with room left over for another 133 million folks. **Rising from the Plains kindle** " "During those thirty million years after things went blah the Rockies were quietly buried ever deeper in their own debris—and not so peacefully in materials oozing overland or falling from the sky. **Rising from the Plains kindle direct** If a river happened to be lying above a spur of a buried range it would cut down through the spur and seem eventually—without logic with considerable magic—to flow into a mountain range change its mind and come back out another way. **Rising from the Plains kindle** While rivers elsewhere running in their dendritic patterns like the veins in a leaf shape in harmony the landscapes they dominate almost all the rivers of the Rockies seem to argue with nature as well as with common sense. **Rising from the Plains kindle paperwhite** "Other quotes:The classic plays—Teton Beartooth Wind River—were not out here on the street but meanwhile these roadcuts were like posters advertising the dramatic events suggesting their narratives fabrics and structures. **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** A geologist who grew up in Wyoming could not ignore economic geology could not ignore vertebrate paleontology could not ignore the narrative details in any chapter of time (every period in the history of the world was represented in Wyoming). **Rising from the Plains kindle** From the Precambrian beginnings he can watch the landscape change see it move grow collapse and shuffle itself in an intricate imbricate manner not in spatial chaos but by cause and effect through time. **Rising from the Plains kindle paperwhite** He can see it in motion now in several ways responsively moving in the present—its appearance indebted to the paradox that while the region generally appears to have been rising the valley has collapsed. **Rising from the Plains kindle cloud** The foreland ranges as the mountains east of the overthrust are called (the Wind Rivers Uintas Bighorns Medicine Bows Laramie Range and so forth) came into the world with their own odd syncopation albeit the general chronology went from west to east and the Laramie Range was among the last to rise. **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** In what Love has called "some of the greatest localized vertical displacement known anywhere in the world" the Wind Rivers rose sixty thousand feet with respect to the rock around them the Uintas fifty thousand others as much. **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** In the same year he published his first book A Sense of Where You Are with FSG and soon followed with The Headmaster (1966) Oranges (1967) The Pine Barrens (1968) A Roomful of Hovings and Other Profiles (collection 1968) Levels of the Game (1968) The Crofter and the Laird (1970) Encounters with the Archdruid (1971) The Deltoid Pumpkin Seed (1973) The Curve of Binding Energy (1974) Pieces of the Frame (collection 1975) and The Survival of the Bark Canoe (1975). **Rising from the Plains kindle** In the same year he published his first book A Sense of Where You Are with FSG and soon followed with The Headmaster (1966) Oranges (1967) The Pine Barrens (1968) A Roomful of Hovings and Other Profiles (collection 1968) Levels of the Game (1968) The Crofter and the Laird (1970) Encounters with the Archdruid (1971) The Deltoid Pumpkin Seed (1973) The Curve of Binding Energy (1974) Pieces of the Frame

(collection 1975) and *The Survival of the Bark Canoe* (1975). **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** Since 1977 the year in which McPhee received the Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the bestselling *Coming into the Country* appeared in print Farrar Straus and Giroux has published *Giving Good Weight* (collection 1979) *Basin and Range* (1981) *In Suspect Terrain* (1983) *La Place de la Concorde Suisse* (1984) *Table of Contents* (collection 1985) *Rising from the Plains* (1986) *Heirs of General Practice* (in a paperback edition 1986) *The Control of Nature* (1989) *Looking for a Ship* (1990) *Assembling California* (1993) *The Ransom of Russian Art* (1994) *The Second John McPhee Reader* (1996) *Irons in the Fire* (collection 1997) *Annals of the Former World* (1998). **Rising from the Plains kindle cloud** I raise that semaphore here at the start so no one will feel misled by an opening passage in which a slim young woman who is not in any sense a geologist steps down from a train in Rawlins Wyoming in order to go north by stagecoach into country that was still very much the Old West. **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** If on the other hand you are not much engaged by the spatial complexities of the science you could miss a richness of human history that has its place among the strata described. **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** This is the story of that ranch soon after the turn of the century and of the geologist who grew up there at home with the composition of the high country in the way that someone growing up in a coastal harbor would be at home with the vagaries of the sea. **Rising from the Plains kindle** While *Rising from the Plains* is a portrayal of extraordinary people it is also a history of the landscape around them where with remarkable rapidity mountains came up out of the flat terrain. **Rising from the Plains kindle cloud** Following *Basin and Range* and *In Suspect Terrain* it continues to present a cross section of North America along the fortieth parallel—a series gathering under the overall title *Annals of the Former World*. **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** -- Malcolm McKenna quoted in John McPhee's *Rising from the Plains* I am nearly finished with the individual portions of *Annals of the Former World* (*Basin and Range* □ *In Suspect Terrain* □ *Assembling California* □). **Rising from the Plains kindle** All I have left is to read the section 'Crossing the Craton' (a forty-page addition to his 40th parallel/I-80 project that filled in the blank in the map and allowed the publishers of 'Annals of the Former World' some additional McPhee text not found in the four main books/sections previously published to incentivize McPhee's fans to fork out the additional \$35 in 1998 to get the whole brilliant McPhee mess). **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** I started off well with 'Basin & Range' 'In Suspect Terrain' but then jumped to 'Assembling California' since a couple of weeks ago I was going to be driving through California and figured it would be nice to have some geology of the geography I was going to be driving through next to me. **Rising from the Plains kindle** You could tell he loved the Loves (David Love: Yale educated geologist cowboy; John Love: David's father mirthful Scot rancher/cowboy nephew of John Muir; Ethel Waxham Love: David's mother teacher writer). **Rising from the Plains kindle books** I give it four stars simply because 'Coming into the Country' still exists for me as a slightly better book but I think the combined energy of all of the 'Annals' is definitely amazing. **Rising from the Plains kindle** The first half of the book is a beautiful blend of Wyoming geology and the history of Love's family as they move into the Wind River Basin region in the early twentieth century. **Rising from the Plains kindle** If you love geology and western history I would highly recommend this book! 0374520658 If you're lucky you've had the chance to get to know somebody truly inspirational someone who just seems to belong to a different category of humanity than us normal folk. **Rising from the Plains kindle paperwhite**) What can be more pleasurable than reading a brilliant writer writing about people he loves and admires? McPhee got his hands on the unpublished diaries of a young woman who made a life for herself in the emerging state of Wyoming in the early 1900's and it's riveting reading. **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** Miss Waxman is an impressive example of humanity - top of her class at Wellesley an excellent horsewoman she became a schoolteacher - the only schoolteacher in fact - in Fremont County Wyoming in 1905. **Rising from the Plains kindle**) Women were so scarce in the region that a stranger found a glove she'd dropped on the prairie twenty miles from her ranchhouse but quickly figured out who the owner must be and returned it. **Rising from the Plains kindle cloud** So many "romantic" books are all

about the period leading up to a marriage...Having now been married myself for twenty-six years having raised a family I think romance in the decades after the wedding has been given short shrift in literature. **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** It just so happens that Wyoming is a perfect place to study just about every geologic process known and Grand Teton National Park contains the most complete and complex geologic record of any place in North America. **Rising from the Plains kindle reader** John McPhee who wrote for the The New York Times for many years is an engaging writer and in this book weaves the geology of the high plains with the story of famed Rocky Mountain geologist David Love and his family who settled in central Wyoming in the first decade of the twentieth century. **Rising from the Plains kindle** There are fossils galore and along the I-80 corridor one views rock stratification created over millions of years from the earliest days of our continent through later ages until more recent geological time - 10 million years ago. **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** I highly recommend this book it's one of my favorites not only because of the memories it evokes but also because geology fascinates me and John McPhee who does an excellent job of showing why.

Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited

Or by the greater story that the adventure of science collectively has to unfold: **Rising from the Plains kindle cloud** Through a second act of synchronicity while reading this book I stumbled across Ken Burns' 1996 PBS video series called The West: **Rising from the Plains kindle** Episode 8 contains extended interviews with David Love in which considerable portions recounted in McPhee's book are recounted, **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** I would advise anyone who enjoys this book to seek out that documentary as well. **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** I don't see how anyone who is not in the geology field could find this book remotely accessible, **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** Maybe I just lack the intellectual curiosity or capacity for this book: **Rising from the Plains kindle** Or maybe it's just a slog of a book that few regular folks would find appealing. **Rising from the Plains kindle paperwhite** It's a portrait of Wyoming's geology but also of David Love and his family and occasionally it's more free-flowing nature writing, **Rising from the Plains kindle books** While McPhee's material is arranged in a distinctively unusual if not idiosyncratic manner his writing is lovely and always riveting, **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** Even if you are like I essentially ignorant of the fundamentals of geology this book is sure to come as a revelation, **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** I cannot imagine how anyone who discovers this book can fail to be moved by the stateliness of Love's chosen field of study memoir geography and of course geology: **Rising from the Plains kindle cloud** People who have vivid mental maps of Wyoming and have driven I-80 (preferably many times) will be the most avid readers, **Rising from the Plains kindle** As I read I kept wondering why the author/publisher didn't use illustrations. **Rising from the Plains kindle app** Verbal descriptions of geologic features aren't nearly as instructive as one good drawing. **Rising from the Plains kindle** Another criticism -- there isn't an Index which is an omission I don't understand, **Rising from the Plains kindle** McPhee explains that trona is 'sodium sesquicarbontate' used in ceramics and textiles pulp and paper iron and steel and most especially glass. **Rising from the Plains kindle paperwhite** Mining of this mineral has released a lot of salt into the environment which of course is never good: **Rising from the Plains kindle cloud** I had about convinced myself not to pick up another one of his books but I've changed my mind, **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** I'll watch for a book about an area that I'm more familiar with: **Rising from the Plains kindle** The author mixes geology history and humans into a tightly woven story: **Rising from the Plains kindle** Wyoming could not be more alive than in this story about the early 20th century settlers. **Rising from the Plains kindle app** John Love settled at the epicenter of Wyoming and has two sons and a daughter, **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** His son David Love took up geology of Wyoming in a large way and his observations and tact are the center of McPhee's writing, **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** They would have been like the Florida Everglades the

peat fens of East Anglia or borders of the Java Sea which stand just as temporarily reported to the future as coal: **Rising from the Plains kindle** The Cretaceous is not far back in the history of the world: **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** It was up there making its point at twelve thousand thirteen feet, **Rising from the Plains kindle** "Imagine my disappointment that the author doesn't swing south to the mountains I know so well but stays up in Wyoming which is an enigmatic place I know a little, **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** The first time I read it I thought it was okay but now I just know too much. **Rising from the Plains kindle app** Wyoming the least populous state has a strangling conservative ethos that is not okay. **Rising from the Plains kindle app** That the two hot spots at any rate are progressively lifting the country is a point reinforced by a remarkable observation: a line drawn between them is the Continental Divide, **Rising from the Plains kindle books** " Back to the geology The Rockies are mountains that are not on a plate boundary making them mysterious and almost an exception to plate tectonics: **Rising from the Plains kindle** They are instead mountains made and then buried in their own eroded debris: **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** Higher than high they eroded and buried themselves so they are being revealed now exhumed. **Rising from the Plains kindle app** Everywhere I go now I envision a Maroon Bell under the hill just waiting to be revealed. **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** "On the east flank of the Laramie Range is a piece of ground that somehow escaped exhumation: **Rising from the Plains kindle** At this place as nowhere else you can step off the Great Plains directly onto a Rocky Mountain summit, **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** Conditions are about the same in this part of Wyoming as at the Arctic Circle. **Rising from the Plains kindle** "There was almost no soil in that part of the range - just twelve miles' breadth of rough pink rock. **Rising from the Plains kindle store** Trees were widely scattered up there and where they existed appeared to be rooted in the rock itself. **Rising from the Plains kindle store** Their crowns looked like umbrellas that had been turned inside out and were streaming off the trunks downwind: **Rising from the Plains kindle direct** Wind erosion has tremendous significance in this part of the Rocky Mountain region Love said Even down in Laramie the trees are tilted. **Rising from the Plains kindle** Old-timers used to say that a Wyoming wind gauge was an anvil on a length of chain: **Rising from the Plains kindle direct** When the land was surveyed the surveyors couldn't keep their tripods steady, **Rising from the Plains kindle** Snow snows again from the ground up moves along the surface in ground blizzards that can blind whole counties, **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** Love said he thought the role of the wind had been much greater than hitherto suspected in the Exhumation of the Rockies: **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** Water of course was the obvious agent for the digging and removal of the basin fill as a look at the Mississippi Delta would tend to confirm. **Rising from the Plains kindle store** Streams only account for about half the material that was taken up and out of here: **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** Since it is not all in the delta where did it go? So much has been taken away that it's got to be explained in some other manner, **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** My personal feeling is that a lot of it blew eastward to the Atlantic. **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** It was full of crinoids brachiopods and algal buttons which had lived near the equator in a place like the Bismarck Archipelago or an arm of the Celebes Sea, **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** I had planned the route I knew the map showed a flattish area so I assumed they would be in the distance a bit but I thought we would know them. **Rising from the Plains kindle store** We got to Cheyenne near dark and realized it was over and felt a little stupid: **Rising from the Plains kindle** During the Exhumation something like 50 000 cubic miles was excavated and deposited here and there: **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** The internet gave me this comparison: One cubic mile is 147197952000 cubic feet. **Rising from the Plains kindle app** If on average one human being takes up a space 2 feet by 2 feet by 6 feet it means we occupy 24 cubic feet per person. **Rising from the Plains kindle store** "These mountain ranges were coming up out of the craton—heartland of the continent the Stable Interior Craton. **Rising from the Plains kindle paperwhite** It was as if mountains had appeared in Ohio inboard of the Appalachian thrust sheets like a family of hogs waking up beneath a large blanket. **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** An authentic enigma

on a grand scale this was one of the oddest occurrences in the tectonic history of the world, **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** Volcanic sands from Yellowstone and from elsewhere to the west were spread by the wind and in places formed giant dunes, **Rising from the Plains kindle books** Nineteen thousand—the thickest Miocene deposit in America—went into the sinking Jackson Hole, **Rising from the Plains kindle reader** From the Wind River Mountains southward to Colorado and eastward to Nebraska the plain was unbroken except for the tops of the highest peaks. **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** " One of the other mysteries of the region are the rivers and their mystery may account for the way the mountains were revealed and why my heart has found its place here, **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** "The oldest river in the United States is called the New River: **Rising from the Plains kindle cloud** It has existed (in North Carolina Virginia and West Virginia) for a little more than one and a half per cent of the history of the world, **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** The Colorado River which has only recently appeared on earth has excavated the Grand Canyon in very little time. **Rising from the Plains kindle** From its beginning human beings could have watched the Grand Canyon being made, **Rising from the Plains kindle books** "The streams lay in patterns that had no relationship to the Eocene topography buried far below, **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** Some of them rushing along through what is now the Wyoming sky happened to cross the crests of buried ranges. **Rising from the Plains kindle** In fact there is no obvious relationship between most of the major rivers in Wyoming and the landscapes they traverse, **Rising from the Plains kindle reader** After more than half a century with the story assembling in his mind he can roll it like a Roman scroll: **Rising from the Plains kindle** The excavation had exposed the broken upturned ends of Pennsylvanian sandstones dipping steeply eastward and leaning on the mountains: **Rising from the Plains kindle direct** These red sandstones lean against the Laramie Range on both sides: **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** By themselves they tell the story of the Laramide Orogeny for they are a part of what was deroofted. **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** They are a part of the Paleozoic package that once rested flat on the deep Precambrian granite: **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** They are thought by some to have been Pennsylvanian beach sands, **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** 0374520658 Princeton University and Cambridge University educated John Angus McPhee: **Rising from the Plains kindle** His writing career began at Time magazine and led to his long association since 1965 with the New Yorker as a staff writer. **Rising from the Plains kindle store** Both Encounters with the Archdruid and The Curve of Binding Energy were Princeton University and Cambridge University educated John Angus McPhee, **Rising from the Plains kindle reader** His writing career began at Time magazine and led to his long association since 1965 with the New Yorker as a staff writer, **Rising from the Plains kindle books** Both Encounters with the Archdruid and The Curve of Binding Energy were nominated for National Book Awards. **Rising from the Plains kindle store** Selections from these books make up The John McPhee Reader (1976). **Rising from the Plains kindle paperwhite** Annals of the Former World McPhee's tetralogy on geology was published in a single volume in 1998 and was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1999: **Rising from the Plains kindle** {site_link} {site_link} This is about high-country geology and a Rocky Mountain regional geologist, **Rising from the Plains kindle reader** If you like to read about geology you will find good reading here: **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** Sometimes it is said of geologists that they reflect in their professional styles the sort of country in which they grew up. **Rising from the Plains kindle app** Nowhere could that be more true than in the life of a geologist born in the center of Wyoming and raised on an isolated ranch. **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** Gradually the mountains were buried until only the higher peaks remained above a vast plain: **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** Recently they have been exhumed and they stand now as the Rockies: **Rising from the Plains kindle direct** Rising from the Plains is John McPhee's third book on geology and geologists, **Rising from the Plains kindle books** Rising from the Plains"Most maps are patched together from various papers and reports, **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** I read these books a little out of order over a little over the last year, **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** While I was a little

disappointed with 'Assembling California' I loved 'Rising from the Plains': **Rising from the Plains kindle direct** I don't know if it was a return to my roots (Wyoming and Snake River and Mormon Country) or the fact that this book seemed just to excite McPhee more. **Rising from the Plains kindle app** He threads this family's golden personality and history with the geology and geography of Wyoming, **Rising from the Plains kindle reader** These books are dangerous and should not be given to children. **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** If my son or daughter (no field geology sexist me) were to discover these McPhee books too young (s)he might just grow up to be a passionate field geologist, **Rising from the Plains kindle reader** Reading this as I near my 40s McPhee almost makes me want to take up a hammer hop on a horse and ride into the mountains: **Rising from the Plains kindle** It is a must read for anyone interested in Rocky Mountain geology or in getting a glimpse into the American west: **Rising from the Plains kindle direct** This book has been republished in McPhee's larger Annals of a Former World: **Rising from the Plains kindle** But it also gives a beautiful overview of the geology of Wyoming through Love's eyes, **Rising from the Plains kindle books** Some of the geology is a bit outdated but it does not distract from the greater good, **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** 0374520658 In Rising from the Plains John McPhee takes us on an exciting and fascinating road trip throughout Wyoming with geologist David Love. **Rising from the Plains kindle** The second half of the book continues with geology of the Rocky Mountain region but also includes a high-level look at the United States and how it affected western geology. **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** He has a way of transporting you back in time millions of years with his vivid descriptions of flora and fauna, **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** In the beginning of the book is a map of Wyoming showing the different geological areas and a chart outlining the different eras, **Rising from the Plains kindle** I'm a sucker for a good map and I found the chart extremely helpful: **Rising from the Plains kindle cloud** Sometimes entire pages were one long paragraph and for me this made reading a bit of work: **Rising from the Plains kindle direct** I know this is petty but it was enough of a distraction for me that I felt I needed to mention it, **Rising from the Plains kindle books** This book has three such people: A geologist named David Love; a frontier wife named Ethel Waxman; and of course the author himself John McPhee: **Rising from the Plains kindle cloud** Arguably the book is primarily about geology but that's a very limited interpretation. **Rising from the Plains kindle paperwhite** For many years this was my favorite book and re-reading it twenty years later I realize I was right: This is marvelous, **Rising from the Plains kindle books** McPhee has made a career of writing about interesting highly-accomplished people, **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** What sets this book apart is love - he really seems to love the people he's profiling, **Rising from the Plains kindle books** (While this is blatantly obvious in the text be assured I'm not making this up - he stated as much in an interview, **Rising from the Plains kindle books** (Fremont County is about the size of New Hampshire and she had only a dozen students some of whom had a three-hour commute by horse: **Rising from the Plains kindle direct** David Love was a down-to-earth guy (literally -- he slept outdoors about 1/4 of his life given the nature of his work. **Rising from the Plains kindle paperwhite**) He also knew more about Rocky Mountain earth science than anybody living back then probably and is a good explainer. **Rising from the Plains kindle** But the story told here is full of romantic touches in the broader sense of the term, **Rising from the Plains kindle books** Here's Ethel writing about an outing with her two sons after harvesting wild hay: My husband liked to have me ride with them for the last load, **Rising from the Plains kindle reader** Sometimes I held the reins and cried "Whoa Dan!" while the men pitched up the hay. **Rising from the Plains kindle paperwhite** Then while the wagon swayed slowly back over the uneven road I lay nestled deeply between my sons in the fragrant hay, **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** The billowy white clouds moving across the wide blue sky were close so close it seemed there was nothing else in the universe but clouds and hay, **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** Working with large animals always carries the potential for danger: "The bull broke into the high granary wrote Waxman: **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** Our only and small supply of horse and chicken feed was there, **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** Foolishly I went in after him and

drove him down the steps..." The bull actually charged her in the granary and came close to crushing her against the back wall. **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** It probably would have killed her though had it not stepped on a weak plank which snapped: **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited**)Spending time with the characters in this book is quite simply a joy, **Rising from the Plains kindle reader** Even better that they aren't fictional and there are people alive today who remember these folks and call them grandma and "grandpa". **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** The book is set almost entirely in Wyoming which has long been my bolt-hole when I grow tired of civilization, **Rising from the Plains kindle reader** If you're at all interested in Mother Earth there's something of interest in every corner of the state and this book provides a thorough and illuminating overview, **Rising from the Plains kindle reader** At the time this book was written the exact process by which the Rocky Mountains arose was still a substantial mystery an odd puzzle among the world's mountain ranges, **Rising from the Plains kindle books** Maybe geologists have figured it out since then but unless we come up with another science writer of McPhee's caliber to explain it I don't wanna hear it, **Rising from the Plains kindle books** 0374520658 This is the third time I've read *Rising from the Plains* and it seems as fresh today as when I first read it for a geology class back in the mid-90's, **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** Having lived in Wyoming myself I am familiar with the area about which he writes. **Rising from the Plains kindle** Wyoming is filled with unexpected landscapes that are awesome forbidding and beautiful. **Rising from the Plains kindle unlimited** Even if you don't understand the geological terms or timeline the book can be enjoyed for its depiction of ranch life in one of the harshest environments in the continental U: **Rising from the Plains kindle direct** The Wyoming landscape is unique in the world and is composed of many mountain ranges in addition to the well-known Rockies and Tetons: **Rising from the Plains kindle** The Rocky Mountains are new mountains relatively speaking that have covered older ranges: **Rising from the Plains kindle direct** That is the case across the state; new ranges moved or enfolded older ranges pushing them every which way, **Rising from the Plains kindle books** Water has carved anomalies like the Devil's Footprint and Flaming Gorge. **Rising from the Plains kindle** Wind has played an even larger role in shaping the landscape. 0374520658 Mind-numbingly abstruse. Wyoming geologist David Love is McPhee's focal point. It's challenging to pin down this book. All mixed into one relatively slim volume. There is a map but it's pretty general. all referring to tidbits of info that I found interesting. Some of the high water penetrates beds of trona. Trona. I'd never heard of it. And to think that I'd never heard of the stuff. This isn't a book I'd read for pleasure. A few pages at a time were plenty. 0374520658 McPhee at his best. A well-spun yarn. It's in the last three per cent of time. But I know some of Wyoming and I know the Gangplank. Read about Matthew Shephard. It is still those times. It is known to geologists as the gangplank. The mean temperature is 38 degrees." And. The. Wind. It's had ten million years to develop and there's none. Why? Wind - that's why. The wind blows away everything smaller than gravel. Standing in that wind was like standing in river rapids. They had to work by night or near sunrise. People went insane because of the wind. On I-80 wind will capsize tractor-trailers. When snow falls on Wyoming its travels are only beginning. I think the wind took it. Fifty thousand cubic miles. The population now has reached over 6.7 billion so today there'd be a little overflow. Or think of Lake Superior at 2900 cubic miles in volume. Two thousand feet of sand accumulated in central Wyoming. "Eventually" of course is now. They rested there like lumber stood against a barn. The *Founding Fish* was published in 2002. So begins John McPhee's *Rising from the Plains*. Description from the first-edition dust jacket (1986). Dave has looked at all the rock. It's all in one mind. Most geologic maps are maps of time not rocks. I am keeping them locked up with my William S. Burroughs Henry Miller etc. 0374520658 This book was phenomenal. It is a biography of the famous Wyoming geologist J. David Love. I enjoyed McPhee's descriptive writing style. My only complaint was the lack of paragraph breaks. Of course not every day on the ranch was this calm. She confused it sweeping its eyes with a broom. The animal panicked and turned for the door. (In decades to follow her husband never fixed the plank. Of course there's a great deal about geology here as well. S. and the pure pleasure of McPhee's prose. 0374520658



JOHN Rising
from
the
Plains
McPHEE