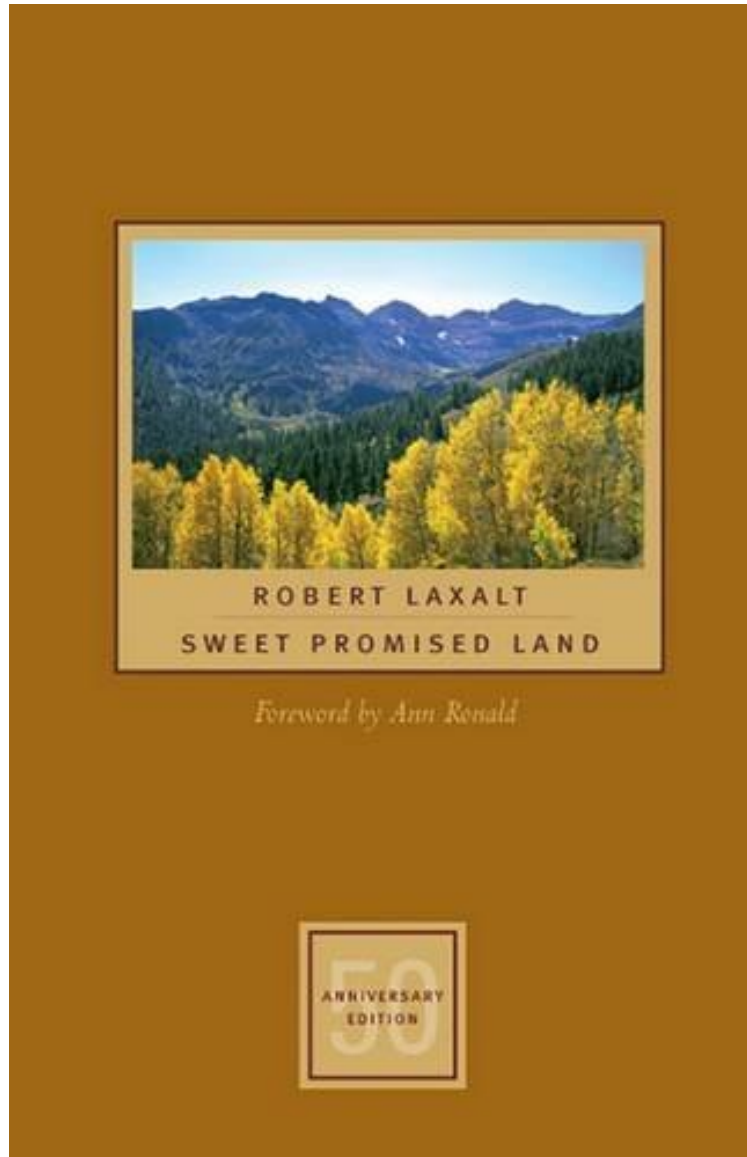


[Download free ebook] Sweet Promised Land (The Basque Series)

Sweet Promised Land (The Basque Series)

Robert Laxalt

*DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#183541 in Books 2007-03-05Format: Deluxe EditionOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x .70 x 5.50l,
.57 #File Name: 0874177065207 pages | File size: 73.Mb

Robert Laxalt : Sweet Promised Land (The Basque Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sweet Promised Land (The Basque Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Basque Legacy in the American WestBy jkaram1When I moved to Idaho about a year ago, I was determined to learn all I could about my new home. No exploration of Idaho would be complete without learning about the Basques--those hardy people from the Pyrenees mountain area of the French-

Spanish border area who emigrated to the West in great numbers in the 19th and early 20th Centuries. Many of them became sheepherders and cowboys in the mountain areas of Idaho, Nevada, and Oregon. Their mark can be seen in many ways, not least of which is the use of delicious chorizos in many local dishes. This book is written by Robert Laxalt, son of one of those immigrants. His father Dominique came to America some time around 1900 (Laxalt never gives dates in this book), and prospered as a shepherd, then as the owner of a major sheep herding operation and hotel owner in Nevada. Then the "bottom fell out of the market" (apparently about the time of the Great Depression), he went back to humbly herding bands of sheep in the remote mountains. He only rarely visited his family's home in Reno, although over the years he did manage to father about six children. Finally, after all his children were grown and successful (Robert was a prominent novelist; his brother Paul was a district attorney, Senator, and eventually governor of Nevada), forty-seven years after coming to America, Dominique returned to his hometown of Tardets, France, to see his surviving siblings and friends. Robert accompanied him on this journey--pilgrimage, really, and writes about it in vivid, flowing language that evokes the Basques' strong attachment to their ancestral land. Along the way he recounts many of his father's anecdotes that fill in the picture of what it was like to be a stranger in a strange land, struggling to make a life, a living, and a family in a bountiful but often unforgiving frontier.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I had to buy this book - so I guess it's fine

By Kelsey

Can you get anymore American than over priced text books? Well that's what this is.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Unique True Story by a Great Storyteller

By Moxie Rocks

This book is a biography, a travel log, and an autobiography rolled into one. Robert Laxalt takes three stories and skillfully weaves them into one wonderful tale. Laxalt is a great storyteller. People who are thinking of writing their memoirs and/or biographies should read this book. I loved the real life characters. I admired the way his opinion and knowledge of his father develops as they travel back to the Basque county in Spain. The forward is way too much. It needs editing for it goes on and on and puts in too many quotes from the story before one has read it. I'm going to read more of Laxalt's books.

In *Sweet Promised Land*, Laxalt paints an affectionate portrait of his father and, simultaneously, tells the story that connects immigrant families everywhere in the United States. Dominique Laxalt, a Basque-American sheepherder, is persuaded by his family to return home for a long-planned visit after living nearly half a century on the ranges of the American West. Accompanied by his son Robert, Dominique travels to his native Basque Country in the French Pyrenees. His return to the village and mountain trails of his youth evokes ambiguous feelings as he describes to his relatives the life of hardship he has endured in the United States. The nostalgic trip to his native land ends poignantly as the elder Laxalt realizes that America has become his true home. Told with compelling sensitivity, this story portrays a family whose members share a strength of character drawn from their peasant ancestors and yet remain separated by diverse cultures on different continents.

"An American story in the best tradition." "It is a tribute to a sturdy, kindly man--a man worth knowing." "This book deserves universal regard as a classic of Americana." "A fond and tender picture of a sterling old man, who will immensely gladden your heart." "This book has a depth and an emotional impact out of all proportion to its modest length." "A warm picture of change and character, this 'return of the native' has a shining human appeal." "One of the most distinguished books of the year and one no Western reader should miss reading cover to cover." "If you want to be a fine writer, do not emulate me on television, but go to the mountain. When you reach the top of the mountain, Robert Laxalt will be there for you." -- Charles Kuralt

"Laxalt speaks not only for the Basques, but for the Italians and Yugoslavs, for the Swedes and the Irish, the Portuguese and the Greeks--all our second-generation citizens. Rarely have they had a more eloquent spokesman." From the Publisher

5 1-hour cassettes

About the Author

Robert Laxalt grew up in Carson City, Nevada. He attended Santa Clara University in California and later graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno. He joined the staff of the University of Nevada in 1954, serving first as director of News and Publications and later as director of the University of Nevada Press, which he founded. He was named a Reynolds Distinguished Visiting Professor and was the first occupant of the Distinguished Nevada Author Chair. The author of seventeen books and many national magazine articles, his work has received international critical acclaim. He lived in Washoe Valley until his death in 2001. Ann Ronald, Foundation Professor of English at the University of Nevada, Reno, has written extensively about the American West and western American literature.