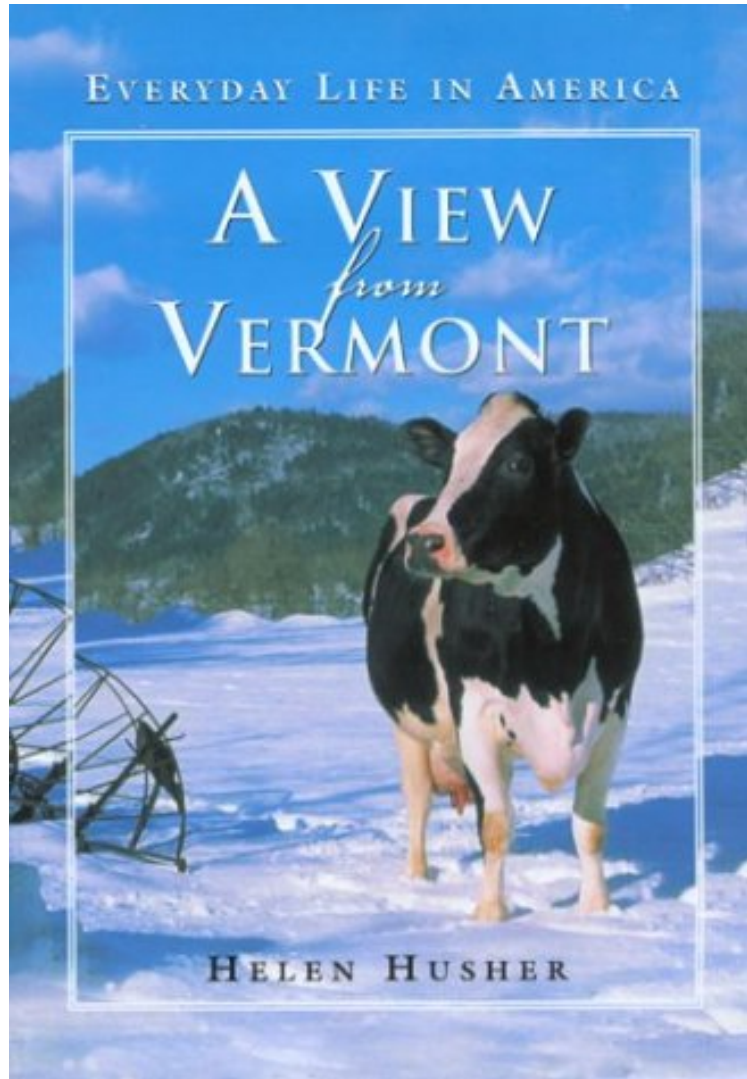


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A View from Vermont: Everyday Life in America (View From)

Helen Husher

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Helen Husher : A View from Vermont: Everyday Life in America (View From) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A View from Vermont: Everyday Life in America (View From):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A writer I'd love to know.By Peter L. SchenckHelen is an curious, insightful, observant and tenderly humorous literary companion. Much of what she writes here would get a knowing nod from anyone from a hilly cold climate sort of place or those who like them.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Vermonter ApprovesBy Kyle J. AmbroseI was born in Vermont, and I can appreciate Husher's admirable and admiring portrait of my birth state. She juxtaposes the profound and the silly but does it without making

the profound things dull or the silly things frivolous. Unlike some treatments of Vermont that either make fun of or idealize the eccentric people of the state, Husher portrays them with passionate interest and sincere respect. What I admire most about *A View From Vermont* is the way that the author shows the common themes running through the fascinating people, places, and events that she writes about. A given chapter might be on two apparently disparate topics, but Husher points out the thread that links them--and does so with such a clear style that one relishes the words as much as the thoughts that they convey. Unlike other contemporary authors who try to be clever, Helen Husher is clever. Very clever. Whether you care anything at all about Vermont, you will like this book if you enjoy good writing and if you like learning about real things that sound like fiction. I can almost guarantee that the average person who reads this book will learn things that could not have been imagined or guessed, and that he or she will be very glad to learn them.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Funny, Warm, Thoughtful Paean to Vermont and Its People
By J Scott Morrison
As a flatlander who is about to move to Vermont, I found this book to make that prospect all the more inviting. Husher writes warmly and, best of all, wryly about the natives of her state. Yes, Vermont is a rural state and its citizens are small-town and farm folk, but that simply doesn't begin to describe how they differ from similar kinds of folks in other states. She tries to explain how Vermonters are different. And in the process she writes fourteen chapters about all manner of characteristics that set them apart. Her descriptions of the essential tolerance by Vermonters for odd behavior make for laugh-out-loud reading. I found myself reading passages to anyone who would stand still for it. And often got an amused response and a request to read them more.

A writer for a small Vermont publication, the author obviously polishes her prose assiduously, packing all manner of detail into it, and this makes it a real pleasure to read, no matter the subject. In a chapter called 'How to Dress Like a Vermonter,' for instance, we get 'There's a general impression in the wider world that all Vermonters buy all their clothes from the fall-winter edition of the L.L. Bean catalog ... but people generally buy their clothes from each other, mostly at thrift shops and yard sales, and the overall look, if that's the right word, is one of rumpled interchangeability. This means that if you live in a small town, you can follow the progress of your child's snowsuit as it works its way through a family of five at the far end of the village, until the day it appears, as if by magic, on a different child in a different family that lives two towns away.' This book is one that a reader who has never been closer than two thousand miles to Vermont can read with pleasure and esthetic satisfaction. For those who know Vermont it is even more rewarding.

Eagerly recommended.
Scott Morrison

A collection of terrifically written essays reflecting on everyday encounters in the Green Mountain State, from the thrall of the tractor to the presence of an Egyptian mummy.

From Publishers Weekly
In this ruminant, meandering collection of essays, Husher affectionately observes her native state's character and culture. A celebration of small-town life, the collection also amounts to a meditation on Yankee temperament. A man who sponsored an "apple census" to recruit fruit pickers exhibited what Husher describes as the northern Yankee's "real genius... a deadpan, potent, and watchful silence." Considering the state's low crime rate, Husher interprets Vermonters' attitude as the opposite of violence: "tolerance is a local specialty, sort of like farmstead cheese." U.S. Senator Pat Leahy figures prominently in "How to Dress Like a Vermonter," mainly for his 1971 legislation allowing skinny-dipping (with exceptions), which Husher takes as illustration of Vermonters' "willingness to be thorough, fair, and happily absorbed by the resolution of issues that do not really matter." A gentle wit and uniquely philosophical approach to the everyday distinguish Husher's best writing, but she often lapses into a precious, self-consciously literary tone. In essays like "Edge of the Clearing," about anxiety about the wild, she makes nimble historical and cultural connections, but other pieces, like "Sounds of Winter," which includes a digest of local newspaper headlines, remain inert and impersonal. When Husher allows for the occasional personal anecdote, though, her prose comes alive. Her penchant for deer hunting with a high-powered water pistol, for example, sheds humorous light on the lengths to which a Yankee will go to protect her perennials. This paean to an American region will appeal to Vermont vacationers and natives, as well as those, who like Husher, lament the mallification of America. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. For author's previous book, *Off the Leash: Subversive Journeys Around Vermont* (Countryman Press, 1999)

From Library Journal: It is a very personal account of Vermont and will attract visitors to and residents of Vermont who have time to read before seeking adventure. Buy for public libraries. Library Journal

From Booklist: Husher is not your usual travel writer. Instead, she looks beyond typical tourist attractions and sees interest in all sorts of off-the-beaten-path places.

From Kirkus s: A satisfying book of travel throughout the Green Mountain State, mixing guidebook and essay. . . . Husher's entertaining, well-written book is likely to inspire more than one vacation to retrace her steps, and armchair travelers will enjoy it as well.

Yankee Magazine: Great, great stuff--playful, intelligent, provocative, funny, informative, fill in the blank with your favorite rave. "Endlessly, joyously inventive, Helen Husher writes with ferocity, grace, and wit about unknown and unappreciated corners of Vermont. *Off the Leash* is a perfect gift for the intellectually adventurous traveler, or for the connoisseur of fine writing who never leaves the house."--Tim Clark, Yankee magazine