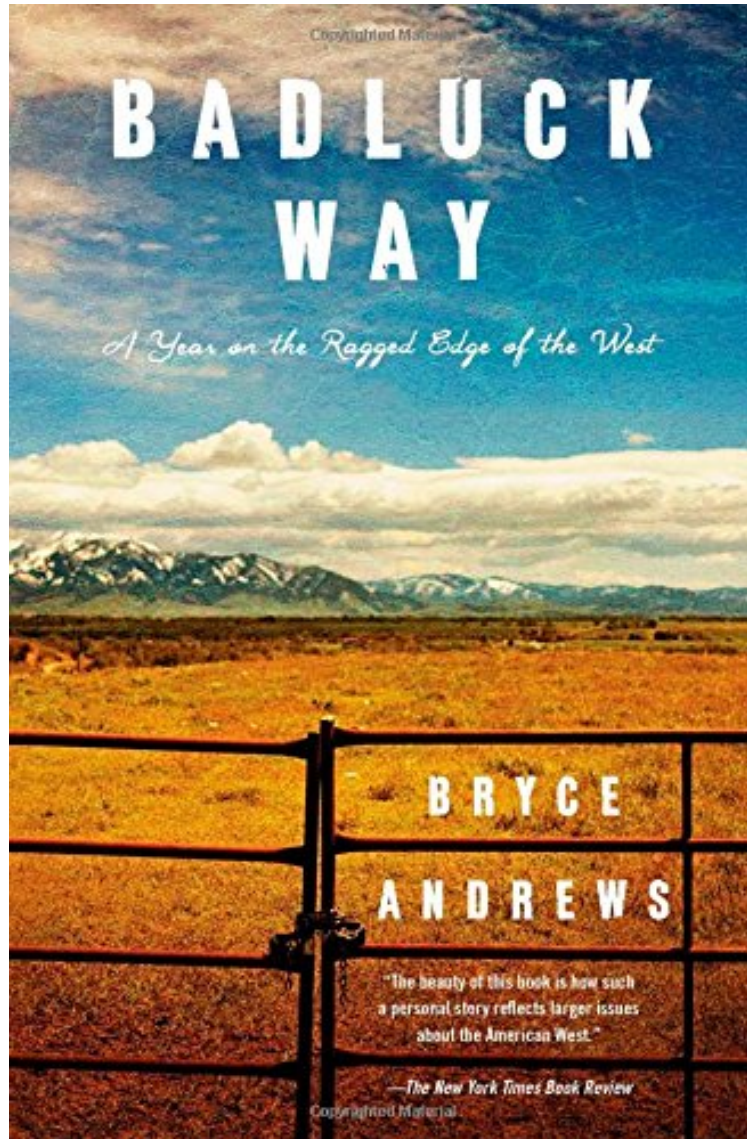


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Badluck Way: A Year on the Ragged Edge of the West

Bryce Andrews

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Bryce Andrews : Badluck Way: A Year on the Ragged Edge of the West before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Badluck Way: A Year on the Ragged Edge of the West:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. If you've ever wondered what it's like on a big ranch in MT? By Kindle Customer Loved, loved, loved, this memoir by Bryce Andrews. It was such a treat to sit next to Bryce when he was flying to Seattle for several book signings, sometimes coindences just seem to happen. In my case, find myself a confirmed book addict with a deep love of everything country and my adopted state of Montana. Of course there was

no question that I would download his book on my Kindle. Bryce truly has a gift with words. If you've ever wondered what it is like to live and what goes on, on a working ranch in Montana, he paints a vivid picture of the ups and downs of a year of his life on the Sun Ranch, just outside of Yellowstone Nat'l Park. My grandson wondered why my book was so engrossing, I invited him to sit with me while I read the chapter I was reading. After a few sentences he was as hooked as I was, he closed his eyes with the observation, "Grandma, I can see a picture in my mind as you read this book". Hope you download or purchase this book, and you enjoy as much as I did. It is one that will remain in my library. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Recommended...By D. PorterThe well written story of a young man spending a year working a cattle ranch in Montana. Andrews gives a glimpse into the life of a ranch hand, but also captures the conflicting interests facing ranching in the west of conservation, economics, development, and tourism. Not sickly sweet like some authors who romanticize nature, the writing is clean and makes you want to enjoy a sunny day outdoors in the west. Recommended. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fun Personal StoryBy C. Ross AndersonI own a cabin in a development just North of the Sun Ranch. I have been inside the lodge and on the ranch. Except for his not knowing that what he calls the "mounds" on the North end of the ranch is really a glacial moraine from Wolf Creek. The ice in the area during the ice age was over 5,000 feet thick. The Madison River has many different shelves that show how large the river was during the melt. Many granite boulders are rounded by the water all along the benches to the river. Some of that history would have been helpful.

Much more than a coming-of-age story, *Badluck Way* is an important meditation on what it means to share space and breathe the same air as truly wild animals, and the necessary damage that can occur when boundaries are crossed (Tom Groneberg, author of *The Secret Life of Cowboys*). In this gripping memoir of a young man, a wolf, their parallel lives and ultimate collision, Bryce Andrews describes life on the remote, windswept Sun Ranch in southwest Montana. The Sun's twenty thousand acres of rangeland occupy a still-wild corner of southwest Montana's high valley surrounded by mountain ranges and steep creeks with portentous names like Grizzly and Bad Luck. Just over the border from Yellowstone National Park, the Sun holds giant herds of cattle and elk amid many predators: bears, mountain lions, and wolves. In lyrical, haunting language, Andrews recounts marathon days and nights of building fences, riding, roping, and otherwise learning the hard business of caring for cattle, an initiation that changes him from an idealistic city kid into a skilled ranch hand. But when wolves suddenly begin killing the ranch's cattle, Andrews has to shoulder a rifle, chase the pack, and do what he'd hoped he would never have to do. Called an elegant memoir by the *Great Falls Tribune*, *Badluck Way* is about transformation and complications, about living with dirty hands every day. It is about the hard choices that wake us at night and take a lifetime to reconcile. Above all, *Badluck Way* celebrates the breathtaking beauty of wilderness and the satisfaction of hard work on some of the harshest, most beautiful land in the world.

From Booklist Just before leaving Seattle for a six-month stint as a ranch hand at Sun Ranch in southwestern Montana, Andrews scuffs his cowboy boots against a city sidewalk to make them look used. Although young and inexperienced, he quickly revels in the difficult work days, bonds with other workers and townspeople, and feels that he is living at the center of his heart's geography. This narrative bends the label of memoir by also telling the story of the wolves that threaten Sun Ranch and attack their cattle. In many ways, this story parallels Andrews' own. Andrews frequently sidesteps into the perspective of the wolves themselves, heightening the drama by allowing the reader to follow their path. Eventually, Andrews must do the thing that frightens him most and confront them. At times, the pace of the narrative lags, and the prose is poetic yet dense. Andrews, however, paints the rural landscape with such precision that the land becomes its own character, and his story itself a finely tuned love song for the West. --Emily Roth This book will make you have deep thoughts about our relationships with the land, nature, and animals. (Temple Grandin, author of *Animals in Translation*) One could find no better guide than Bryce Andrews for a journey along the shifting border between the wild and the tame; a daunting frontier filled with unsettling truths, blood and beauty. His wonderfully crafted prose is lean, yet rich in the telling details of seasons spent on a Montana ranch overseeing a shaky co-existence between cattle and wolves. Andrews is a keen-eyed ecologist, a skilled ranch hand and, best of all, a self-examining student of life with a young man's inclination to push past fear and caution toward an embrace of risky, life-altering experience. In *Badluck Way*, Andrews shuns both cowboy romanticism and environmentalist sermonizing and illuminates the inescapable conflict between human economic imperatives and the compulsions of animal instinct. His book is a gripping tale of the West, raw and real. (David Horsey, columnist and cartoonist for the *Los Angeles Times*) This memoir of life as a contemporary, ecologically minded Montana cowboy is heartfelt. Andrews' language often sings. Told in a refined version of a campfire ghost story, his narrative took my breath away. (Jana Harris, author of *Horses Never Lie about Love*) An important meditation on what it means to share space and breathe the same air as truly wild animals. (Tom Groneberg, author of *The Secret Life of Cowboys*)