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BOOK INFORMATION SHEET (8.11.21)

**Author (as it should appear on the book):** David Wharton

**Title:** *Roadside South*

Note: This is the third book in Wharton's *Trilogy of the American South* (ISBN 978-1-938086-90-8), which will sell for \$100.00 (no discount).

**Contributor:** with an afterword by Steve Yarbrough

**Partner:** Published in association with the Center for the Study of Place and University of Mississippi's College of Liberal Arts and Center for the Study of Southern Culture

**Book pages:** 184

**Number and type of illustrations:** 130 duotone photographs by the author

**Trim size:** 11.0" x 9.0" horizontal/landscape

**List price:** \$50.00

**Discount:** Trade

**ISBN (book):** 978-1-938086-82-3

**ISBNs (electronic):** T.B.D.

**Edition:** Hardcover/PLC

**E-book?** T.B.D.

**Interactive e-book?** N.A.

**Jacket:** Yes

**Edition size:** 800/1,000

**Publication date:** February 2022

**Advances due:** December 2021

**To warehouse:** January 2022

**Printed in:** China

**Distributor:** Casemate/IPM

**Bookstore categories (list three):** Photography/Southern Culture/Travel (The American Road)

**Audience:** Those who are interested in the American South, photography, landscape studies, and the open road.

**Selling points (list three):** (1) The American road appeals to many readers—this is the first road book on the American South;(2) the photographs are truly stunning; and (3) this completes David Wharton's *Trilogy of the American South*, a truly pioneering, as no other photographer or artist has provided such a comprehensive view of this distinctly American place.

**Tagline:** A richly nuanced look at the roadside South in all its quirkiness!

## **Description of the work:**

The American South, especially its small towns and rural areas, is largely connected not by interstate highways but through a web-like network of country roads, many of which appear only on the most detailed of maps. These are the backroads that most Southerners drive on every day. Unlike the interstates whose roadsides have been largely scrubbed clean of regional character, these smaller roads travel through unplanned, vernacular landscapes, revealing much about local life, both past and present, and suggesting we make connections between the two.

David Wharton has been traveling throughout the American South since 1999, resulting in his first two books—*Small Town South* (2012) and *The Power of Belief: Spiritual Landscapes from the Rural South* (2016). As he journeyed, he often paused to make pictures of hamlets and the countryside he was driving through that did not fit the themes of those earlier books. These are scenes that speak to a sense of wonderment, or curiosity, about how those landscapes came to be and how they reflect a complex past with a modern-day world in which the urban competes with the rural in nearly every way.

In *Roadside South*, the third book in Wharton's magical *Trilogy of the American South*, the photographer captures the quirky and the humorous, the sometimes sad and sometimes ironic scenes that are commonplace along the local, county, and state roads of the South. No artist has revealed the on-the-ground truth of the South as Wharton has, giving rise to a new understanding of and appreciation for a distinctive regional culture that all too frequently, and sometimes mistakenly, is imagined as a bastion of rural and small-town virtue.

## **Blurbs:**

“The absence of people looms large in David Wharton's latest collection of photographs. Even though his images are brimming with the detritus of late-stage Southern life, he has almost entirely de-populated his scenes—an active photographic decision that makes the all-too-familiar South appear unusual at last. Indeed, this strangeness comes as a welcome relief. It separates his work from prevailing Southern photographs that often leverage a sense of loss to make tritely documentary or moralizing points. In Wharton's unforgettable photographs, human absence becomes a palpable presence, one that dashes Southern mythology by grounding it in a newly visible place.”

—Seth Feman, Curator of Photography and Deputy Director Art and Interpretation, Chrysler Museum of Art

“*Roadside South* completes David Wharton's stunning trilogy interpreting the rural South. Alive to the region's paradoxes and incongruities as well as its struggles, strengths, and aspirations, his photographs challenge us to reconsider our understanding of a region at once archaic, dynamic, and complicated. His images of the Southern vernacular reveal the work of a master craftsman, among the very finest documentary photographers of our

time.”

—Richard B. Megraw, Associate Professor of American Studies at the University of Alabama and author of *Confronting Modernity: Art and Society in Louisiana*

**About the Author:**

*David Wharton*, since 1999, has been Director of Documentary Studies and an assistant professor of Southern studies in the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi in Oxford. His photographs have been exhibited throughout the United States, Latin America, and Europe, and he is the author of *The Power of Belief: Spiritual Landscapes from the Rural South* (George F. Thompson Publishing, 2016) and *Small Town South* (George F. Thompson Publishing, 2012), which respectively won the 2017 and 2013 Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Award in Photography, and *The Soul of a Small Texas Town: Photographs, Memories, and History from McDade* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2000).

**About the Contributor:**

*Steve Yarbrough* was born and raised in Mississippi and currently is a professor in the Department of Writing, Literature, and Publishing at Emerson College in Boston. His novels include *The Unmade World* (Unbridled Books, 2018), winner of the 2019 Massachusetts Book Award in Fiction, *The Realm of Last Chances* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2013), *Safe from the Neighbors* (Alfred A Knopf, 2010), *The End of California* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2006), *Prisoner of War* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2004), which was a finalist for the 2005 PEN/Faulkner Award, and *The Oxygen Man* (MacMurray & Beck, 1999), winner of the 1999 California Book Award, 2000 Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Award in Fiction, and 2000 Mississippi Authors Award. In 2010, he also received the Richard Wright Award for Literary Excellence.