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The Old Santa Fe Trail

Stanley Vestal

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Stanley Vestal : The Old Santa Fe Trail before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Old Santa Fe Trail:

2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. The Old Santa Fe Trail by Stanley VestalBy SolarsoulsThe Old Santa Fe Trail by Stanley Vestal is one of many books on the Subject matter off the Santa Fe Trail that happens to be a favorite History topic and is in fact less than 100 miles from my home in places.Its great reading and exciting History. I would reccommend it to friends interested in this topic.0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Three

StarsBy BRIANNot Stanley's best, but not his worst.

The Santa Fe Trail was one of the two great overland highways originating in Missouri in the nineteenth century. Several decades before settlers streamed over the Oregon Trail, traders were heading southwest. The caravans carried the wares of Yankee commerce; they returned loaded with buffalo robes and beaver pelts and the rich metals of Mexican mines. The thousand-mile journey was a perilous cruise across a boundless sea of grass, over forbidding mountains, among wild beasts and wilder men, ending in an exotic city offering quick riches, friendly foreign women, and a moral holiday, writes Stanley Vestal. Vestal begins where the trail does. He describes outfitting for the trip, the society formed for survival, the hunt for meat, landmarks, and the dangers. He evokes the history and legends surrounding the trail at every point, including figures like Kit Carson, Jedediah Smith, the Bent brothers, and Uncle Dick Wooton.

"What is distinctive in [Vestals] account is the admirable reconstruction of the facts and feelings of the life of the trail. To read his book is to realize that life as vividly as if you had seen it in a movie. . . . Obviously, he loves the Trail and knows it as well as one knows ones own sidewalk. His enthusiasm makes his knowledge infectious."New York Times