



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

By Bryce Andrews

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“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—a 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.

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## Badluck Way: A Year on the Ragged Edge of the West By Bryce Andrews Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

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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

Review

“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.”  
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