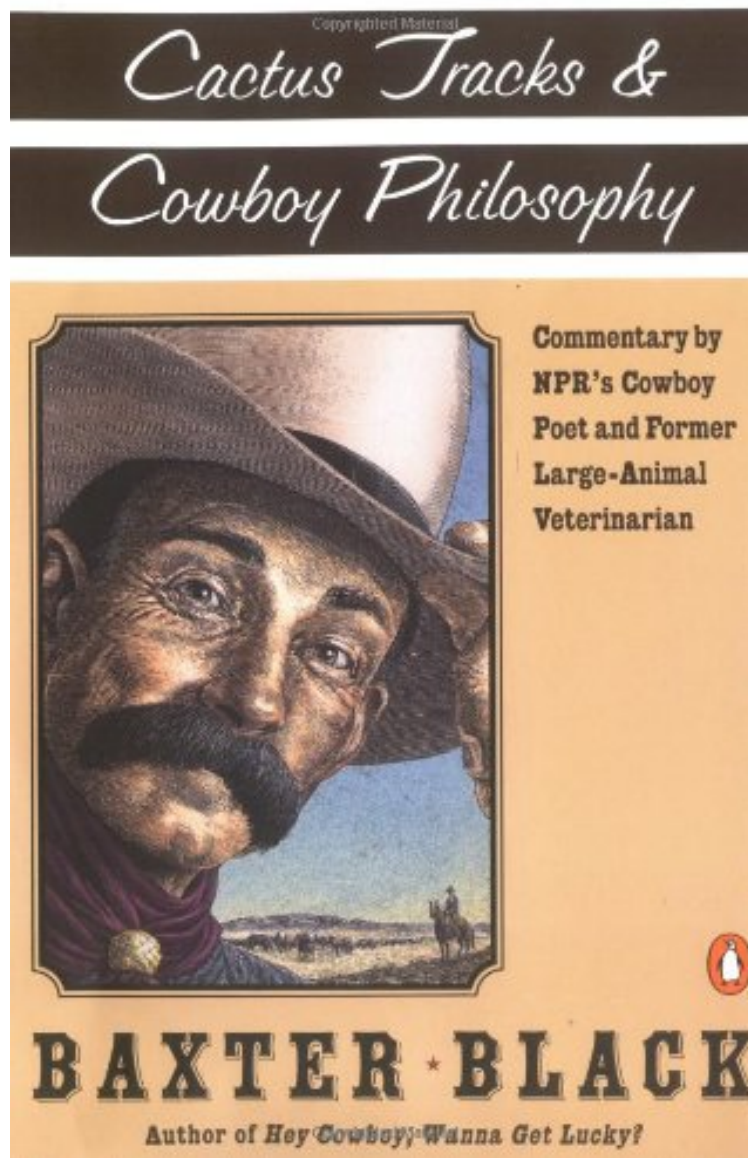


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Cactus Tracks and Cowboy Philosophy: Commentary by NPR's Cowboy Poet and Former Large-Animal Veterinarian

Baxter F. Black

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Baxter F. Black : Cactus Tracks and Cowboy Philosophy: Commentary by NPR's Cowboy Poet and Former Large-Animal Veterinarian before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cactus Tracks and Cowboy Philosophy: Commentary by NPR's Cowboy Poet and Former Large-Animal Veterinarian:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great short stories and poems for those who love American Cowboy tales. A great read. By Joseph J. Truncale I have loved poetry of all kinds (with the exception of the so-called garbage modern free verse) most of my life. Even though my favorite poetry form is haiku and other short poetry, I have grown to also love western cowboy poetry. To me, this poetry form is much more meaningful than what is pretending to be "modern poetry" today. In fact, this is why I no longer subscribe to any poetry journal at this time. This (Cactus Tracks and Cowboy Philosophy by Baxter Black) volume contains some excellent short essays and poetry that most people will like and enjoy. It is pure Americana. If you have never read any Cowboy poetry or essays in the past, this is a good place to start. This 276 page paperback has more than 100 short stories from the author's vast experience. Some of these essays made me laugh out loud, but I thoroughly enjoyed reading the entire book. I also loved most of the poems in this collection. The following are just a small sample of the great stories in this volume: All I want for Christmas, Runnin Wild Horses, A lesson in Life, A love Story, Range Fire, Chauvinist? Who me? Women, Caught in the Act, The Consultant, Just Friends, Triggernometry, The Cowboy's Guide to Vegetarians, A vegetarians, My kinda Truck, Buffalo Tracks, Political Correctness, Cowboy time, Chicago's Bratwurst, Cowboy Mentality and The Romantic Cowboy. This book is loaded with amusing and humorous stories from a writer who is pure American Cowboy. In conclusion, if you love poetry and real-life stories about a true American Cowboy, who is by the way, highly educated as well, you will enjoy reading this book. It sure beats the hell out of reading the so-called modern poetry; which so many University pseudo-intellectuals seem to praise today. Rating: 4 Stars. Joseph J. Truncale (Author: Haiku Moments: How to read, write and enjoy haiku) 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By watson Really like Baxter Black...his poetry, philosophy, humor and the creative way he thinks and writes. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Ashley I have greatly enjoyed reading his poems in tis book!

Described by The Washington Post as being able "to make a dead man sit up and laugh," Baxter Black--veterinarian/doctor turned poet/columnist/raconteur--has been making living people laugh with his novel (Hey Cowboy, Wanna Get Lucky?), syndicated columns, appearances on The Tonight Show, and regular pieces on National Public Radio. Now this complete illustrated collection of the commentaries that have aired on NPR's Morning Edition presents Black's latest dose of medicine for animal and human alike. Ranging from a riotous account of two cowboys chasing down a cow in the nude to a very touching piece about a rancher who loses his wife to cancer and finds out the true worth of his friends and neighbors, Cactus Tracks Cowboy Philosophy brings together Black's best-known and most adored work.

.com Baxter Black, a veterinarian turned writer/troubadour/raconteur and periodic commentator on National Public Radio, has produced a collection of his best anecdotes, songs, poems, and wisdom from the range. "My world is one in which people have lots of wrecks," he reports in Cactus Tracks. "Cow wrecks; horse wrecks; financial wrecks; flood, fire, and drought wrecks. Laughing at our 'wrecks' seems to make the tribulations of our lifestyle easier to handle." Here is the complete collection of his commentaries from NPR's Morning Edition. With subjects ranging from naked wrangling to life lessons ("When our opinions get as immovable as a granite outhouse, God has a way of shaking the foundation"), Baxter drops his reader-listener right into the prickly heart of things. From School Library Journal YA? A new source for students who rebel at poetry assignments. Black, known as a "cowboy poet," has gathered together his popular broadcasts on National Public Radio. His prose and poetry are rich in the sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and textures of the ranch, prairie, and high country. According to the author, cowboy life dangles "between humor and tragedy" and laughter helps one to get through the tough times. Some of the selections grab the heart, too, including a Christmas poem, "Joe and Maria, The First Christmas...Cowboy Style." Black has a way with words. A hard rain is a "fish-drownin', hat-soakin', slicker-testin' downpour." Older chickens are "blue-haired layers that had lost their bloom." YAs who dream of living the life of a real, honest-to-John (Wayne) cowboy will hoot and holler at this book, and be inspired to try their own unique way of tellin' a tale. Judy Sokoll, formerly at Fairfax County Public Library, VA Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus sBlack (Hey Cowboy, Wanna Get Lucky?, 1994), comic western versifier and former physician to equines, ruminants, and other large domestic animals, rechews his whimsical cud with short pieces originally emanating from the airwaves of NPR. In over 100 little essays, stories, poems, and songs (and a glossary of feedlot lingo), each read in just the time it takes to soft-boil an egg, ol' Bax' stretches his tales tall and spins his poems. The stories recall the likes of Josh Billings and Artemus Ward of yesteryear, and the galloping poetic rhythm hasn't been so securely ridden since the days of the late Robert W. Service. Black hog-ties his rhymes (e.g.: "fish" with "leash," "up front" with "elephant") with a force emblematic of John Wayne. His stuff, as Baxter advises, "should always be read aloud (or at least move yer lips)." The dialect is ripe with "figgered" and "knowed" and sechlike. Enough final "g"s are dropped to delight any English lord. But what need of syntax and grammar when the book, on the whole, is simply fun, educational for the tenderfoot and redolent for cow people? Some efforts, naturally, work better than others; someone might have introduced Black to the notion of culling. For the most part, though, the seemingly ragtag ramblings are cleverly constructed to tickle fans and bemuse those, not wise to the difference between cow patties and beef patties, who just like the idea of being a cowpoke.

Cowboy Black throws the bull, the cow, the stallion, the mare, common barnyard critters, and even the kitchen sink into these pieces with assurance and, generally, to good effect. Just put on yer five-buckle overshoes, watch where you step, and join the fun. (12 line drawings, not seen) (Author tour) -- Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.