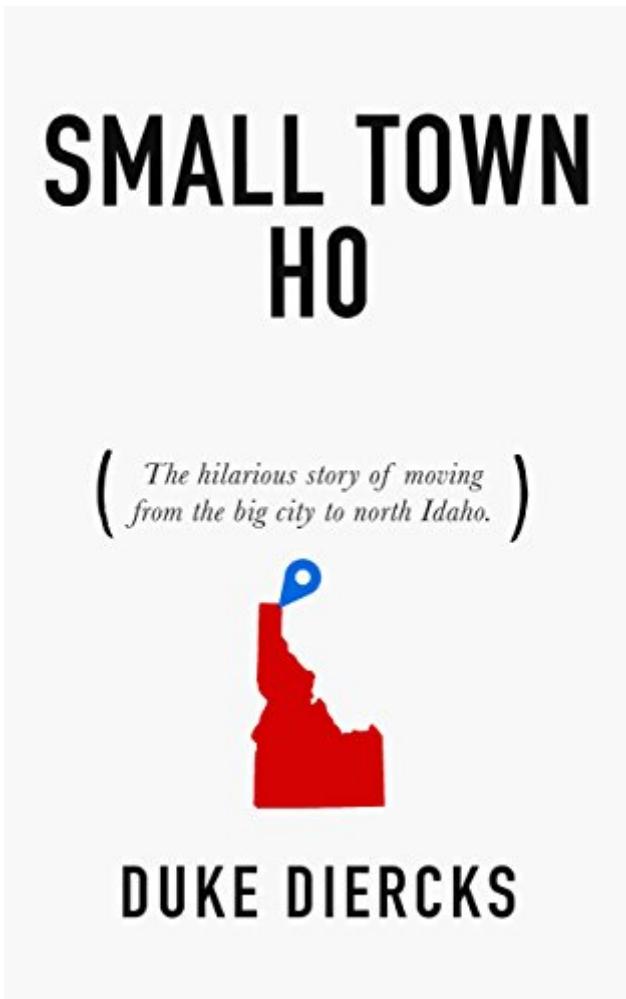


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Small Town Ho: The Hilarious Story Of Moving From The Big City To North Idaho



Synopsis

Have You Ever Wanted OFF the Treadmill ??New author Duke Diercks bursts onto the scene with the hilarious memoir of one familyâ™s move from the big city to the panhandle of North Idaho. No Jobs. No friends. Just buckets of our own ignorance. Follow along in horror and hilarity as the family acclimates to the new small town way of life and the author bounces from jobs working in a school cafeteria to selling womenâ™s clothing in a call center to opening a barbecue restaurant. Written in a smart, self-deprecating, salty style, Small Town Ho is all at once poignant and laugh-out-loud funny, full of the struggle of an ordinary family consisting of three boys, one big black lab, one assassin of a cat, and two very tired parents.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Anybody with kids, pets, who had to move a family across the country, start a business or work at odd jobs will love this book. It is hilarious! Rarely do I read a book when I break out laughing out loud -- and this happened in every chapter. My favorites were the chapter about working in the call center, and the one about the dog, Brisket.

So funny - I read it in a couple hours, couldn't put it down! As a resident of the slightly larger town located 45 minutes south of the author's town, and a transplant from a big city myself, Duke Diercks really nailed it when describing life and people in the North Idaho area - the good, the bad, the ugly, and the endearing. Brilliant humor - I laughed my ass off! You don't have to have ever visited Idaho though to find his story incredibly entertaining.

Reads like Dave Berry with a Texas twang -- great storytelling and lots of laughs throughout...nice work!

We're just plain crazy to move there on a whim. I wish I could do it. Funny, and interesting about the modern American pioneer family. They may climb the peaks of the western mountains in a Subaru instead of the old covered wagon, but the adventurous spirit is the same.

This is by far the funniest and most likeable book I've read in a long time. You can't help but relate to and root for Duke, Mrs. Magoo, their three boys and dog Brisket as they stumble and bumble through one adventure after another. Likeable, because they stay cheerful and optimistic misstep after mistake. His cast of characters are so hilarious, you just know it's a case of "you can't make this up" and that they're real and possibly not even exaggerated. From Ethel ("Her expression, when I described her job that afternoon, was a mixture of intense constipation, schoolmarm anger, and a child's face right before he digs in his heels and throws a . . . tantrum.") to Kris ("He had been a Shaolin monk before Shaolin Monks were cool.") to the other townspeople, about halfway through the book you'll want to dig out the Northern Exposure reruns. It's hard for me to pinpoint my favorite chapter, but Duke's job in the customer service call center for Coldwater Creek was particularly hysterical for me, in a way that only a woman who has actually ordered clothes from Coldwater Creek can appreciate. If you've ever moved for all the wrong reasons (or for no proper reason other than you like a hotel in another region altogether), if you've ever failed at making your own gravestones for your lawn at Halloween, if you've ever sprinkled parmesan cheese on your dog's food, and if you eat dinner off of a \$3 Iron Man TV tray, you're going to find some comfort in this book. I sure hope Diercks has another book in him, because I can't wait to find out what's coming down the pike with this crew.

I haven't laughed so hard, while simultaneously loving all the people in a book, since . . . well, I can't remember. Diercks has such a keen eye for just the right detail, always providing the moment, the

place, the insight, the perspective, to either leave you laughing (hysterically, sometimes), or moved. In this way his writing reminds me of the late (hilarious) David Rakoff. I also often thought of David Sedaris, but to be honest I enjoyed this more than anything I've read by Sedaris. There's a tiny bit of a mean edge to Sedaris's humor at times, and Diercks somehow avoids that but never loses the humor. I live in a big city and he made me want to move to small town Ho . . and then maybe not. It's a thrill to find a new humor writer you can't wait to recommend to everyone you see. There are 99 ways to do humor wrong, and Diercks hit the sweet spot and did it just right. I hope he writes more books!

Being an Army Brat, I could really relate to the moving experience and his humor and point of view is awfully close to mine. If you find "the road less traveled" full of potholes, you will enjoy this book

The author's writing style and wit reminded me of early Bill Bryson (Sorry, Bill, the last couple of reads your crabby side was showing). Loud bursts of laughter for me throughout this book, especially in the first half. I moved from Chicago to Boise several years ago, and Duke hits on the head many of the cultural truisms of Idaho. He also shares parenting and job stories with good humor and insight. Part of the charm of his writing lies in his honesty and willingness to share the stupidity most of us have displayed in our younger family-raising, job-groveling years. Any person can be reasonably intelligent yet veer from minor lapses of judgment to colossal "fails"; the trick is in looking back with humor, humility and learning, and Mr. Diercks nails it. The tales pull the reader along, chronicling various misadventures but ultimately culminating in the profound appreciation for that which makes up small town life--the people with whom one interacts. Bravo. P.S., If I ever write a book, I am hiring your editor--perfection.

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