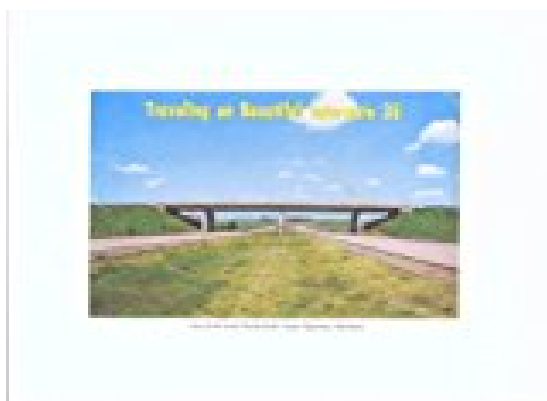


[PDF] Boring Postcards USA

Martin Parr - pdf download free book



Books Details:

Title: Boring Postcards USA
Author: Martin Parr
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Description:

You know those old postcards that show the local meatpacking factory in all its cinder-block glory or the sickening color scheme of a cheap '70s motel room? Well, here they are. Beginning with panoramas of highways in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and other U.S. states, *Boring Postcards* segues to truck stops, restaurants, motor inns, malls, airports, military bases, factories, tools, and automobiles. Every image is certifiably boring, whether by dint of a photographer's ineptitude (dead-on views taken from too far away) or the sorry state of corporate architecture and interior design. And yet, as earnest advertisements for the American Way of Life, they all radiate a sunny faith in the uniqueness and desirability of whatever they portray.

There's not a word of commentary in this book, but that part is up to you. Certain things begin to stand out as you flip through the pages. Like the always blue skies. (Positive thinking!) Or the potentially interesting details that are uniformly obliterated, thanks to those polite middle-distance views and the muddy qualities of cheap lithography. There's a weird tension between the blandly generic ("Fine Food" reads the only visible sign atop a low-slung white building) and the proudly local (according to the postcard caption, this is "The famous Blue Grill on U.S. 40, St. Elmo, Ill."). In its silently subversive way, *Boring Postcards* proposes that we look more closely at this hallowed form of marketing to see what it tells us about the values and standards of mainstream American culture. --Cathy Curtis

Review 'Such American hot spots ... may have been boring then - or, stranger yet, they may not have been - but they're so cheesy now they're delicious.' (The Wall Street Journal) 'A wry collection of American gems.' (Metropolitan Home) 'Boring Postcards USA reads as a technicolor-toned paean to the optimism of postwar America.' (Interiors) 'A magnificent compendium ... has a hypnotic feel, and is a reminder that America isn't all the Grand Canyon, Yosemite and New York skyline.' (Simon Hoggart, Guardian)

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