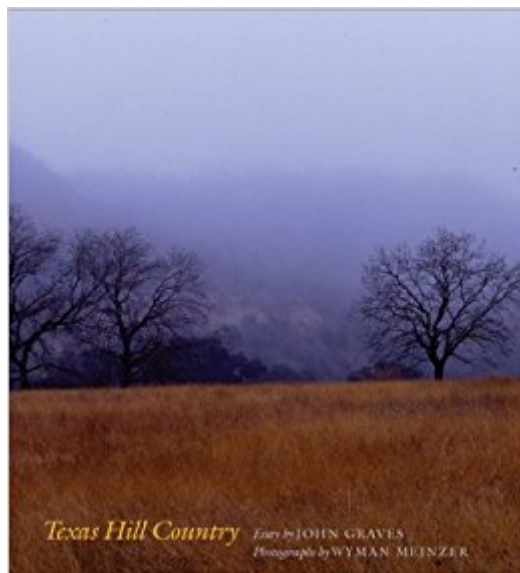


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# Texas Hill Country



## Synopsis

Limestone hills, cold spring-fed streams, live oaks and cedar, old German towns— the Texas Hill Country may well be the most beloved region of the state. Unlike West Texas with its dramatic expanses of plains and sky, or the eastern Piney Woods in their lush fecundity, the Hill Country never overwhelms. Its intimate landscapes of rolling hills, fields of wildflowers, and cypress-shaded rivers impart a peace and serenity that draws the urban-weary from across Texas and even beyond. In this volume, two of the state's most respected artists join their talents to create an unsurpassed portrait of the Texas Hill Country. With an unerring eye for landscape photography, Wyman Meinzer distills the visual essence of the Hill Country— long vistas of oak-and-cedar-covered hills, clear streams running over rocks, bluebonnets turning fields into lapis-colored seas. His photographs also go beyond the familiar to reveal surprising contrasts and juxtapositions— prickly pear cactus delicately frosted with ice, black-eyed susans growing among granite boulders. With an equally true feeling for what makes the Hill Country distinct, John Graves writes about the land and its people and how they have shaped one another. He pays tribute to the tenacious German pioneers who turned unpromising land into farms and ranches, the Anglo-American "cedar-choppers" who harvested the region's pest plant, and even the generations of vacationers who have found solace in the Hill Country. As Graves observes, "since well over a century ago, the region has been a sort of reference point for natives of other parts of the state, and mention of it usually brings smiles and nods." Together, John Graves and Wyman Meinzer once again demonstrate that they are the foremost artists of the Texas landscape. The portrait they create in images and words is as close as you can come to the heart of the Hill Country without being there.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"John Graves and Wyman Meinzer have proven themselves to be a winning combination in their books on the Texas sky and on Texas rivers, and this new volume is a worthy and logical addition to the franchise. In fact, of their three collaborations, I like this one the best. . . . These two artists clearly value the same things. They share a bone-deep appreciation of the landscape and a deep commitment to craft, and their work in this splendid book is mutually reinforcing." (Stephen Harrigan, author of *Gates of the Alamo*, *A Natural State*, *Water and Light*, and *Comanche Midnight*)

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Finally, someone captures the beauty and serenity Texas' most wonderful region, without feeling compelled to show pictures of big cities and subdivisions from overhead!! I have searched for years for such book, and John Graves definitely delivers it! This book is full of interesting historic information, fused with lovely countryside images of the hill country. My only comment is that it would have been nice to have an idea (page by page) of where the pictures were taken. To find out, one must flip back and forth to the index page and cross-reference it with page numbers (which are not on all the pages). On the other-hand, the photos are not "soiled" with a bunch of letters, words, numbers, etc. A really nice coffee table book for those who love the heart of Texas.

This book is more than just a coffee table book with pictures of the cheesy pictures of alamo. This is a beautifully expressed book that has both personal essays and photos that rally give an accurate and thoughtful glimpse into the best part of Texas. Well worth it.

Wonderful Book Beautiful photographs

Beautiful

This is a beautiful book. I really wanted to get a feel for what the area was about before we decide where to retire. The book honestly portrays that part of the country.

This is the essential photo collection of Texas Hill country scenes. Photos at different seasons & wide variety of "cultural" and purely natural scenes. I've sent copies to friends outside the USA to show that Texas is not just a prairie like the scenes in the movie "Giant"

great book

I purchased this rather expensive "coffee table" book with the hope of receiving an idealized photo-documentary of the Hill Country (at least, more than what I already know). I got a big book with lots of mundane landscape scenes - many shrouded in fog and cloud cover. Sort of like battlefield pictures long after a war ended. The narrative was short and basically a flashback of the writer's utopic vision of the Hill Country set against the current status quo. Not the kind of story that inspires you to rush to Central Texas and explore.

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