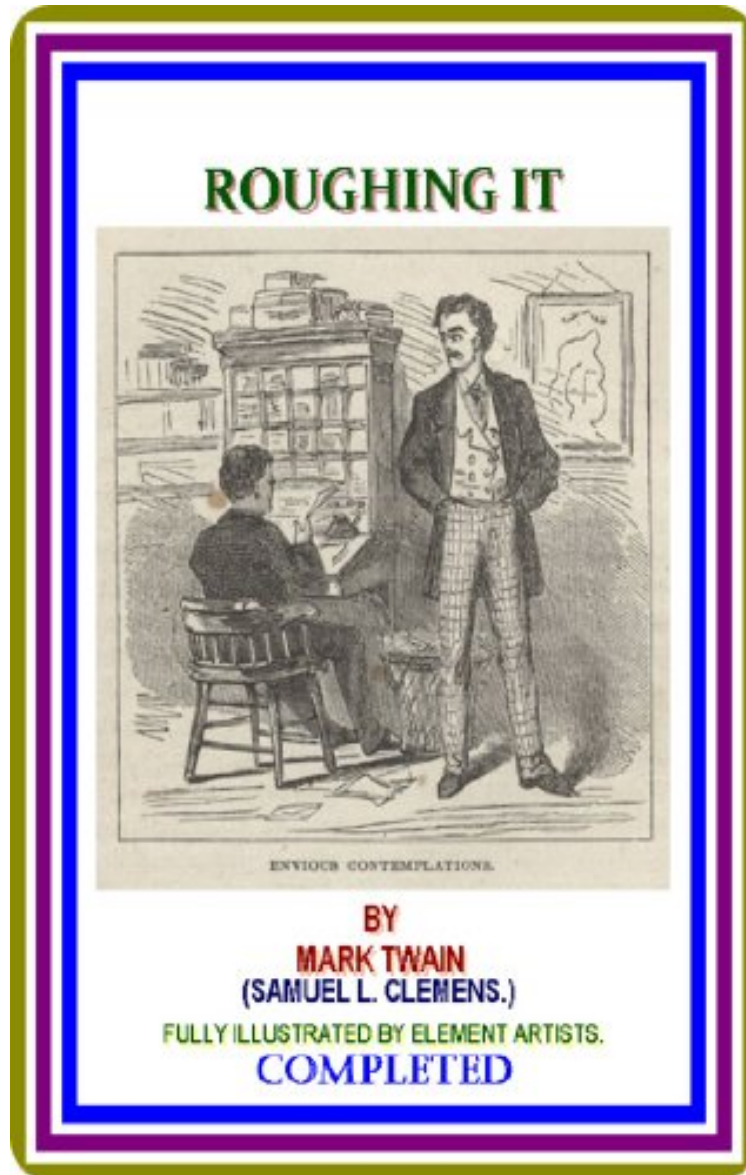


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Von Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens)

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WESTWARD HEY-HO! Von Matt Andrews Travellin' west? Take this. Here's a great reissue of a hundred-year-old-plus book that remains fresh as a cactus bloom. Huck Finn is Twain's best, but *Roughing It* has a conversational chumminess that takes you right to his camp fireside and makes you wish you truly knew the man. It is all about a stagecoach ride to riches that turns out just so, and is invaluable as a celebration of the adventuring American spirit. Salt Lake City will never be the same for me! Here's my vote for the Posthumous Nobel Prize for Wit. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The undisturbed soul of Mark Twain Von Ein Kunde This book is better than the equivalent of sending Walter Kronicite to the Wild West to investigate its doings. Mark Twain, ever the great poet/humorist, embarks into the real world of the West with as much excitement and curiosity as you or I would have via an Overland Stagecoach. While he is at this occupation, he develops a dozen more, including prospecting and newspaper reporting, being destitute, and being fabulously rich. Everywhere his gaze is turned is carefully recorded and sent 'back-home' to you and I as though it were a personal letter through the post! His humor and insight is actually the finest of his entire career; the personal feeling, yearning, passion, and pathos of his descriptions are more poetic than the bards of all time. On his journey from Springfield, Missouri, to find out what life will become--and with WHAT, and IN what--he accompanies his brother Orion, just appointed secretary to the Governor of the Nevada territories by President Lincoln, to conveniently become the secretary's secretary. An occupation, predictably short-lived. Upon arrival young Sam Clemens, a recent riverboat pilot turned Confederate Soldier gone AWOL is as set free as a snake from a cardboard box. No one on earth could have taken advantage of the wild possibilities that beckoned from the new frontier better than Sam Clemens. Sam was as a man gone there intentionally in a time machine and was exultant to begin his plans---and coming-up with them on his arrival. He wrote home that he would never return to Missouri until he had become a rich man, and THAT from the silver mines that peppered the entire mountain ranges of Nevada of that day. One has the incredible opportunity to view through Mark Twain's eyes the true West and at the same time view Mark Twain and what influence it was having upon HIM. At just the saving moment of the demise of his grandiose plans he becomes a newspaper correspondent from Hawaii, and, without ever having the knowledge himself, explores from one American frontier to the next. While in Hawaii he wrote in unparalleled prose the majesty he witnessed there. He tells of the history and collects the information that would later become the substance of his first lecture tour, and what would become the most celebrated literary career in the 19th century, and to some: of all time. This is Mark Twain's finest book. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Funny and informative Von Christiane These are Mark Twain's recollections of his three-months pleasure trip to the Nevada silver mines which actually turned into a seven-year stay. Twelve years before the completion of the railroad he and his brother Orion did the trip in stage-coaches and with his keen powers of observation, humour, knowledge and brilliant prose he brings this bygone era back to life. Being incurably restless, during those years Mark Twain held a variety of jobs, lived in lots of different places and under very different conditions (on a shoestring on the silver fields and in relative luxury in Hawaii), had hair-raising adventures and met all kinds of wild, weird and picturesque characters. This book is more consistent than for example *Life on the Mississippi* and Twain doesn't go off on a tangent anywhere near as much. Admittedly some of the anecdotes are too long-drawn out, sometimes there is more information on a topic than one would have wanted but I still consider this one of his best and most amusing books.

Kurzbeschreibung PREFATORY. This book is merely a personal narrative, and not a pretentious history or a philosophical dissertation. It is a record of several years of variegated vagabondizing, and its object is rather to help the resting reader while away an idle hour than afflict him with metaphysics, or goad him with science. Still, there is information in the volume; information concerning an interesting episode in the history of the Far West, about which no books have been written by persons who were on the ground in person, and saw the happenings of the time with their own eyes. I allude to the rise, growth and culmination of the silver-mining fever in Nevada a curious episode, in some respects; the only one, of its peculiar kind, that has occurred in the land; and the only one, indeed, that is likely to occur in it. Yes, take it all around, there is quite a good deal of information in the book. I regret this very much; but really it could not be helped: information appears to stew out of me naturally, like the precious oil of roses out of the otter. Sometimes it has seemed to me that I would give worlds if I could retain my facts; but it cannot be. The more I calk up the sources, and the tighter I get, the more I leak wisdom. Therefore, I can only claim indulgence at the hands of the reader, not justification. THE AUTHOR. CHAPTER I. My brother had just been appointed Secretary of Nevada Territory an office of such majesty that it concentrated in itself the duties and dignities of Treasurer, Comptroller, Secretary of State, and Acting Governor in the Governor's absence. A salary of eighteen hundred dollars a year and the title of "Mr. Secretary," gave to the great position an air of wild and imposing grandeur. I was young and ignorant, and I envied my brother. I coveted his distinction and his financial splendor, but particularly and especially the long, strange journey he was going to make, and the curious new world he was going to explore. CONTENTS. I. My Brother appointed Secretary of Nevada, I Envy His Prospective Adventures, Am Appointed Private Secretary Under Him, My Contentment Complete, Packed in One Hour, Dreams and Visions, On the Missouri River, A Bully Boat. II. Arrive at

St. Joseph, Only Twenty-five Pounds Baggage Allowed, Farewell to Kid Gloves and Dress Coats, Armed to the Teeth, The "Allen", A Cheerful Weapon, Persuaded to Buy a Mule, Schedule of Luxuries, We Leave the "States", "Our Coach", Mails for the Indians, Between a Wink and an Earthquake, A Modern Sphinx and How She Entertained Us, A Sociable HeiferIII. "The Thoroughbrace is Broke", Mails Delivered Properly, Sleeping Under Difficulties, A Jackass Rabbit Meditating, and on Business, A Modern Gulliver, Sage-brush, Overcoats as an Article of Diet, Sad Fate of a Camel, Warning to ExperimentersIV. Making Our Bed, Assaults by the Unabridged, At a Station, Our Driver a Great and Shining Dignitary, Strange Place for a Frontyard, Accommodations, Double Portraits, An Heirloom, Our Worthy Landlord, "Fixings and Things", An Exile, Slumgullion, A Well Furnished Table, The Landlord Astonished, Table Etiquette, Wild Mexican Mules, Stage-coaching and RailroadV. 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