

Edge Effects

THE BORDER-NAME PLACES

Robert D. Temple

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LIVING ON THE EDGE

A new definition — a quirky one — for border towns

Names that bridge the boundaries.

“*Edge Effects* brilliantly examines how frontiers enrich cultures and boundaries define them. But more importantly, it reveals how edges shape local history — and our lives.”

Edge Effects is about living on the edge: Places located on state lines and named for the two states. Texarkana is the one people have heard of. Here are all such places across North America — eighty-one of them — with tales of travel and their histories.

On one level, *Edge Effects* is about these places. They range from big-city Mexicali to empty-quarter Idavada, from idyllic Vir-Mar Beach to whiskey-soaked Mondak and fraudulent Calvada Springs. We travel to palmy Floralá, prairie-bleak Alsask, mountain-high Wyocolo, and the salt playas of Calada. In our travels we encounter train wrecks, fires, and plenty of really bad dinners along the way. Some of these places are so obscure that the author is probably the first traveler ever to visit them intentionally, certainly the first to record the experience.

On a deeper level, the places provide a device for exploring concepts of borders, boundaries, frontiers, margins, and marginality; survey lines, battle lines, picket lines, and color lines; how frontiers enrich cultures and boundaries define them; how edges shape local history.

The book describes incidents of travel — by highway, four-wheel-drive, boots, and kayak — and encounters with local informants in back roads, libraries, homes, shops, offices, and bars across the continent. It explores the consequences of living on a border — cheap beer on one side versus quickie marriages on the other; guns, fireworks, gambling, tattoos, loan sharks. Escape.

The author, Robert D. Temple, when not traveling, lives in Ohio, Virginia, and Yucatán.

Edge Effects is available through on-line retailers and local bookstores.

For additional information and media material, please see www.edge-effects.com.

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