



Lighting Out for the Territory: How Samuel Clemens Headed West and Became Mark Twain (Simon Schuster America Collection)

By Roy Jr. Morris

Simon & Schuster. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 304 pages. In the very last paragraph of Mark Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, the title character gloomily reckons that its time to light out for the Territory ahead of the rest. Tom Sawyer's Aunt Sally is trying to civilize him, and Huck Finn can't stand it; he's been there before. It's a decision Huck's creator already had made, albeit for somewhat different reasons, a quarter of a century earlier. He wasn't even Mark Twain then, but as Huck might have said, That aint no matter. With the Civil War spreading across his native Missouri, twenty-five-year-old Samuel Clemens, suddenly out of work as a Mississippi riverboat pilot, gladly accepted his brother Orion's offer to join him in Nevada Territory, far from the crimsoned battlefields of war. A rollicking, hilarious stagecoach journey across the Great Plains and over the Rocky Mountains was just the beginning of a nearly six-year-long odyssey that took Samuel Clemens from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Hawaii, with lengthy stopovers in Virginia City, Nevada, and San Francisco. By the time it was over, he would find himself reborn as Mark Twain, America's best-loved, most influential writer. The trouble, as he famously...



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