

What critics say about *The Car That Brought You Here Still Runs*:

"As it explores - even bolsters - his mystique as the poet of the modern American West, it simultaneously critiques that romanticized vision. Its brilliant strategy is to complicate genre.... The photographs themselves are enough to recommend this gorgeously produced book. Often stark, these black and white portraits of places Hugo's poems memorialize illuminate skeletal glimmerings of towns..."-Rain Taxi

"This is a book for people who love pilgrimage. Twenty-four of Hugo's best poems of place are sandwiched in between Randlett's photographs and McCue's tightly written, deceptively broad essays."-jorymickelson.blogspot.com

"Hugo's own story merges with McCue's observations and interviews with the poet's friends (including Lois Welch, Bill Kittredge and Annick Smith) in a way that adds texture, detail and insight to a journey that's both literary and deeply personal." - Lively Times

"Whether you love poetry or just love to read of those pursuing their passions *The Car That Brought You Here Still Runs* by Frances McCue is for you." - The Philipsburg Mail

"This book... is an astute psychological portrait of Hugo and a superb reintroduction to his work." - Seattle Times

"This is a book worthy of its subject: smart, beautifully written, with stark images and poignant reticences."-City Living

"An audacious new book . . . an ambitious amalgam of intentions. There are components of homage, literary criticism, biography and anthology all relating to Hugo. There is significant environmental reportage inspired by Hugo's poetic observations. Lacing all this together is McCue's own memoir recounting road trips designed to trace Hugo's steps....Randlett's stark photographs drive the point home - Hugo found things to love in the unlikeliest places." - Bookmonger, Bellingham Herald

"Frances McCue . . . visited the Northwest towns that inspired poet Dick Hugo and has written a book that is both scholarly and entertaining for non-English majors. She writes wonderfully, she can be really funny and there's insight on every page." - The Missoulian

"a deeply felt meditation on how and where Hugo created his poetry. . . greatly enhanced by the photography of Mary Randlett" – The Oregonian

"McCue's chapters subvert expectations. On the one hand, a recognizable pattern emerges: first, there's a handful of Hugo's poems about a particular locale; then McCue

discusses particular towns in relation to Hugo's poems; finally, embedded within her discussion are Randlett's photos. At the same time, McCue keeps the reader off balance with . . . ever-deepening critiques." – Rain Taxi

"Rather than adopt the tone of literary theorist, McCue imbues her musings with related elements—at times conversational, including anecdotes from her life, and at other times historical, even folksy when she recalls conversations she shares with locals. What she accomplishes is nothing short of astonishing." – Rain Taxi

"Hugo's poems reemerge as current, even relevant to regions outside the West" – Rain Taxi

"'The car that brought you here' – a pivotal line from arguably Hugo's most important poem. . . does, indeed, 'still run.' McCue drives it, pulls it over, and invites us to climb in, allowing us to journey through the towns of Hugo's poems into a past that is still very much with us." Rain Taxi

"'The Car that Brought You Here Still Runs' . . . blends McCue's innovative travel writing and small town history with Randlett's starkly evocative black-and-white prints to greatly deepen our understanding of this beloved Northwest writer. – Real Change

McCue unleashes her full powers of dissection on both the poem ('Degrees of Gray in Phillipsburg') and the town, parsing Hugo's motivations and intent and bearing witness to P-Burg's mining past and reinvention as a tourist town. – The Missoulian