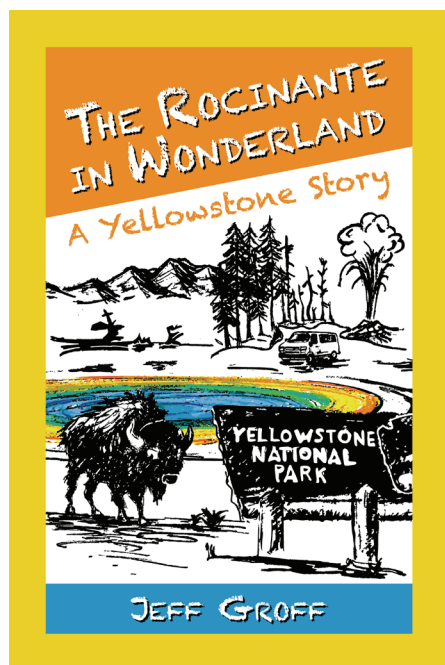


THE ROCINANTE IN WONDERLAND

A Yellowstone Story

by Jeff Groff

Part travel narrative, part natural history, part philosophical reflection—Yellowstone’s story like you’ve never heard it before.



BOOK DETAILS

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ABOUT THE BOOK

Yellowstone is a place of boiling mud, shooting water, and thundering bison—a landscape so extraordinary that nineteenth-century visitors called it Wonderland. In this book, two professors and a group of college students spend six nights exploring that landscape aboard a well-worn van named Rocinante. Join them as they discover the supervolcano beneath the geysers, uncover the ecology behind wildfires, and grapple with our agathokakological relationship with wolves—and the tragic history of the Indigenous peoples who have known this place for millennia. Along the way, trace the arc of the national park idea from the expeditions that first brought Yellowstone to the public imagination to ongoing struggles for preservation and restoration.

- Contains thirteen original maps, an index, and a “Planning Your Yellowstone Adventure” guide making the book a useful field companion.
- Accessibility to general audiences—it reads like a story while delivering real science and history.
- Mission-driven publishing—the author receives no royalties; all proceeds support Starlight Studio’s nonprofit educational programs.

THEMES

- Understanding Yellowstone requires interdisciplinary exploration. Every chapter deepens the reader’s understanding of the park’s geology, ecology, history, and cultural significance.
- The park idea is powerful but fragile. Protecting places like Yellowstone requires each generation to rediscover why these places are special and matter.
- Preservation of places like Yellowstone also requires citizens to experience these places. Thus, field-based experiential learning opportunities for students is essential infrastructure for the park idea to endure.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jeff Groff is a professor of physics and environmental science at Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, where he developed the interdisciplinary Yellowstone National Park field course on which this book is based. He holds a PhD in applied science from the College of William & Mary.