

MISSING YELLOWSTONE

Michael Brohm



Angry Sky. Lamar River, 2009



Double Rainbow. Lamar Valley, 2009



Sunrise, Hayden Valley, 2009

According to an armageddon website, the Bible Code (whatever that is) predicts that Yellowstone Park's Super Volcano will erupt in 2010. If I'm going to meet my maker in a cataclysmic event, this is the one I choose.

A woman is trampled by a Yellowstone Bison while filming her friend taunting the animal. The video is view by thousands on youtube, probably hoping to re enact the event during their next park visit.

A novice fly fisherman, probably after watching A River Runs Through It, overloads himself with gear, wades too deeply into the current and is swept away. His body is found 6 miles downstream.

Summer in Yellowstone Park as a Darwinian workshop.

After more than a decade of making an annual trip to Yellowstone, I didn't make it this year. I'm a poorer man for it. Instead, one of my friends fished a cold, rainy week on the Bighorn River in Montana, loving every minute of it. The other friend rafted for 21 days through the Grand Canyon. I made a trek to Russia near the Ural mountains to continue a photo project.

As summer ends, I look at photos from trips past and vow to never let another year slip by without standing in the cold current of the Yellowstone river.

---M.B.



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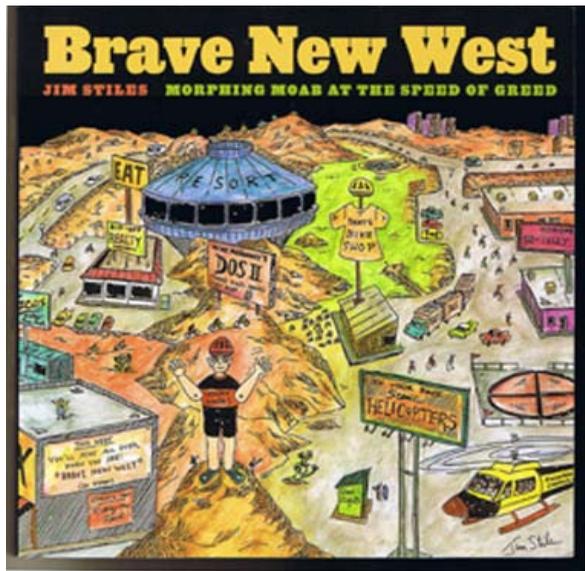
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"Jim Stiles holds up a mirror to those of us living in the American West, exposing issues we may not want to face. We are all complicit in the shadow side of growth. His words are born not so much out of anger but a broken heart. He says he writes elegies for the landscape he loves, that he is "hopelessly clinging to the past." I would call Stiles a writer from the future. Brave New West is a book of import because of what it chooses to expose."

-- Terry Tempest Williams

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