

Borderlands USA Synopses:

<140 characters (110 characters)

A returning ex-pat circumnavigates the Lower 48 on a quest to discover what it means to be an American post-9/11.

<50 words (46 words)

A returning ex-pat circumnavigates the Lower 48 on a quest to discover what it means to be an American post-9/11. Far from the tourist paths, he discovers that the country's edge tells much about its core, while coming home to a sense of profound gratitude.

>100 words (108 words)

When 9/11 struck, Ben Batchelder was living overseas. Dumbfounded, he wondered: How could he help?

After leaving his marriage and overseas career, he returns to the U.S. with an outlandish plan: to protect the country by car, driving a silver-plated VW Beetle as close to the remote borders as possible, without getting arrested.

Along the way he gets to know his beloved country again and meets many unheralded borderlanders, whose stories of hard work, patriotism, and perseverance go well beyond the usual headlines. Instead, he finds that the nation's edges reveal much about its core – and in the process comes home to an overwhelming sense of gratitude.