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Rachel Ashwell Couture Prairie: And Flea Market Treasures



Synopsis

Rachel Ashwell Couture Prairie takes her signature pastels, ruffles, and whimsical prettiness right to the heart of cowboy country. This is a journey in pictures and words, following Rachel through the fields of a little town called Round Top, home to one of the largest, most eclectic and vibrant antiques and flea markets in the world, and then back to Rachel's newly acquired bed-and-breakfast in Texas. Here Rachel's inspired finds, her creative imagination, eye for detail, and her commitment to beauty, comfort, and function have finally come together in one location: The Prairie by Rachel Ashwell – an irresistible destination. This book takes Rachel in a new direction, bringing her eye for cherished patinas and pastel prettiness into the endless landscapes and diverse architectural styles of Texas. Here you will see how her style adapts to corrugated metal sheeting and weathered timbers, and how it brings new life to elegant period mansions. Chapter by chapter, the book leads you through Rachel's little houses on the prairie, from the Ranger's Lounge where hearty breakfasts are served, to the Pearl Barn, scene of wedding parties and celebrations, stopping off at the evocatively named guest accommodation: Blue Bonnet Barn, Cornflower Cottage, Meadow Manor, Faith Cottage, and Liliput Lodge.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (79 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I know this book is a soft sell for Rachel Ashwell's The Prairie in Round Top, Texas, but I am glad it

is. I have been wanting to see more photos, besides those on her website and in a previous book. The sumptuous scenes not only draw one into to this gentle, humbly genteel world, but they also give me many ideas for my own desert/prairie home. As a shabby little cowgirl, this book inspires me to stay true to expressing my love of the faded and rusty, spare and clean, worn and well-loved - in creamy whites, grays, and dusty pastels. It helps to balance my mucky boots, calloused hands, hay-strewn hair, and sun-kissed skin, while staying true to my own aesthetic. This is an ecologically sustainable design style that honors and recycles the beautiful, experienced object, and gracefully counters the disposable society.

As we all recognize, Rachel's shabby chic look has evolved through the years from "sweet" to a little more "rough and rustic". (As have most of us) I was disappointed in her last book, which I felt was a conglomeration of every style out there. She has found herself again and settled down into her recognizable personal style in this book. It is a very effective mix of her signature soft look while at the same time accommodating the roughness of the Texas prairie. This book has the confident Rachel Ashwell look and style we have come to expect. I gave this review a 4 rather than a 5 because several of the pictures were so obviously "staged" rather than simply capturing life as it is naturally on "The Prairie".

I guess, although I am (was?) a Rachel Ashwell fan, I am not the die-fan of the same ilk of the previous reviewers. Basically this book is a promotional hard-bound brochure for her new B&B in Texas. What a concept - get people to spend \$25.00 - \$35.00 for your B & B advertising! Nothing new or original in terms of decorating ideas. This is the first of her books that comes off almost as a narcissist as well - continually commenting on her signature style over and over: blah, blah, blah. Also annoying, she consistently waxes so lyrically about her ranch hand "Danny" that I somewhat suspect this as a romance (hers, that is) story of the same genre as Mary Emmerling's "Romantic Country." A waste of my money.

Love the different buildings and rooms. I was a little disappointed. I wish there wasn't so much wasted pages, like a full page spread of just Rachel and her dog. Nothing personal, I just would rather see more ideas, rooms, not more pictures of Rachel. Good book.

I love the shabby chic look and once again Rachel Ashwell has provided a beautiful book full of her ideas and pictures of her work. Lots of photos of her new B & B in Texas. Fun to look at and dream.

Hopefully will make it out there one day, stay at the B & B and go to the Flea Market in Round Top, Texas.

I wasn't too pleased with the last Book Rachel Ashwell came out with but this one has got to me my very Favorite. If you love shabby country style I would say this is for you. It's very Prairie Rustic and reminds me a lot of the 1940's romantic simple look.

What I love so much about this book is that it showcases Rachel's signature stamp of dusty pastels, worn finishes and charming floral prints so beautifully while affirming that this decor preference is truly design within reach. One doesn't have to scrimp and save and long, one needs only visit a flea market or keep their eyes open for curbside treasures and voila, Shabby Chic decor can be yours.

The cover photo is my favorite picture in the entire book. The book is "okay". I was expecting to find a lot of decorating inspiration but I instead found myself skipping through the pages a little bored with what I was seeing. The photographs are lovely but I was looking for more specific home decor ideas and inspiration vs. photos of collectible images or flea market finds. If the flea market finds were accompanied by fabulous ideas for how to display the items or incorporate them into home decor I think I would've liked that better. It's still a beautiful book - I did LOVE the size of it. Beautiful but a bit boring.

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