Contents

x Foreword
xii Preface
xvi Acknowledgements

1 CHAPTER 1: THE BUFFALO JUMP
8 Communal Buffalo Hunting
12 Not Just Any Cliff
14 The Site
16 The Cliff
18 How Long Have Buffalo Jumped?
24 Blood on the Rocks: The Story of Head Smashed-In

27 CHAPTER 2: THE BUFFALO
32 Is it Bison or Buffalo?
33 In Numbers, Numberless
37 Tricks of the Trade
39 The Fats of Life

43 CHAPTER 3: A YEAR IN THE LIFE
44 Calves
45 Mothers
49 Fathers
52 The Big Picture
54 Science and the Historic Record
60 The Seasonal Round
65 The Season of Buffalo Jumping

71 CHAPTER 4: THE KILLING FIELD
73 Finding Bison
75 Drive Lanes
81 Points in Time
85 Ancient Knowledge
91 Back to the Drive Lanes
97 Deadmen
101 In Small Things Forgotten
CHAPTER 5: Rounding Up

103 The Spirit Sings
114 The Nose of the Buffalo
117 Fire this Time
121 Luring the Buffalo
124 Buffalo Runners
129 Lost Calves
134 Billy’s Stories
137 The End of the Drive
141 Of Illusions, Pickup Trucks, and Curves in the Road

CHAPTER 6: The Great Kill

147 Leap of Faith
155 Overkill?
161 Drop of Death
164 Bones on Fire
168 Let the Butchering Begin
171 Bison Hide as Insulator
175 Back to the Assembly Line

CHAPTER 7: Cooking Up the Spoils

179 The Processing Site
182 Day Fades to Night
185 Dried Goods
188 Grease is the Word
191 High Plains Cooking
195 Hazel Gets Slimed
198 Buffalo Chips
200 Hot Rocks
206 Time for a Roast
211 Where Are the Skulls?
216 Packing Up, Among the Bears

CHAPTER 8: Going Home

221 Buffalo Hides
229 Pemmican
235 Snow Falling on Cottonwoods