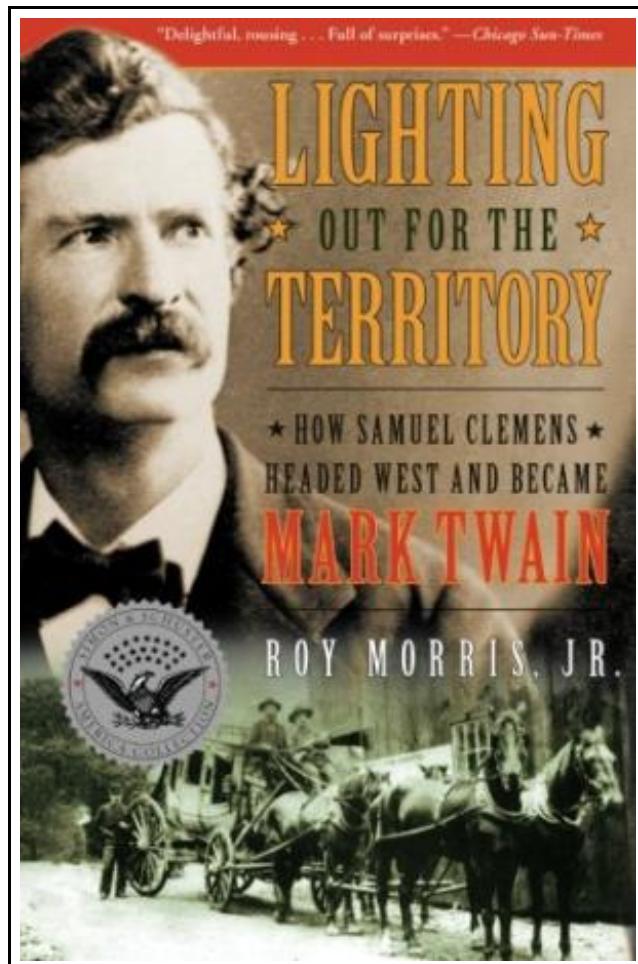


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Simon & Schuster. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 304 pages. In the very last paragraph of Mark Twains Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, the title character gloomily reckons that its time to light out for the Territory ahead of the rest. Tom Sawyers Aunt Sally is trying to sivilize him, and Huck Finn cant stand ithes been there before. Its a decision Hucks creator already had made, albeit for somewhat different reasons, a quarter of a century earlier. He wasnt even Mark Twain then, but as Huck might have said, That aint no matter. With the Civil War spreading across his native Missouri, twenty-five-year-old Samuel Clemens, suddenly out of work as a Mississippi riverboat pilot, gladly accepted his brother Orions offer to join him in Nevada Territory, far from the crimsoned battlefields of war. A rollicking, hilarious stagecoach journey across the Great Plains and over the Rocky Mountains was just the beginning of a nearly six-year-long odyssey that took Samuel Clemens from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Hawaii, with lengthy stopovers in Virginia City, Nevada, and San Francisco. By the time it was over, he would find himself reborn as Mark Twain, Americas best-loved, most influential writer. The trouble, as he famously promised, had begun. With a pitch-perfect blend of appreciative humor and critical authority, acclaimed literary biographer Roy Morris, Jr. , sheds new light on this crucial but still largely unexamined period in Mark Twains life. Morris carefully sorts fact from fictionnever an easy task when dealing with Twain to tell the story of a young genius finding his voice in the ramshackle mining camps, boomtowns, and newspaper offices of the wild and woolly West, while the Civil War rages half a continent away. With the frequent help of Twains own words, Morris follows his subject on a winding journey of selfdiscovery...

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