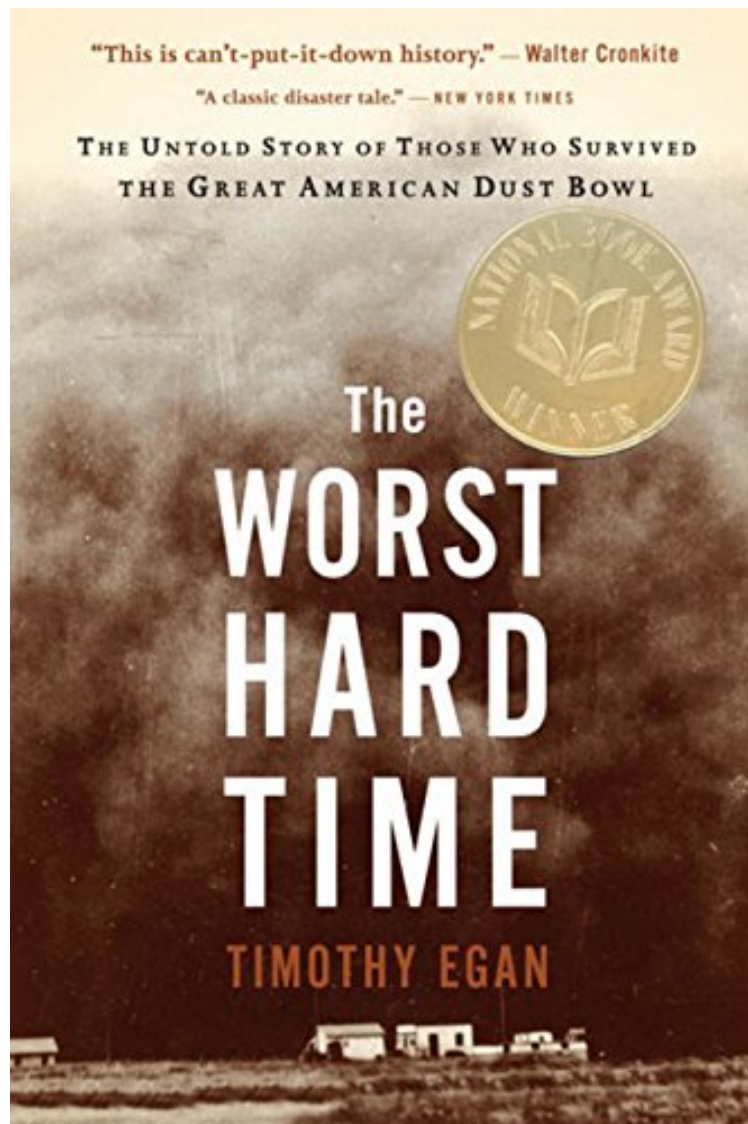


[Ebook free] The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl

The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl

Timothy Egan

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Timothy Egan : The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Hard-hitting, surprisingly good By Allen Smalling An amazingly

powerful book about the 1930s dust bowl, how we got it, and what was done about it (often, very little). In my opinion it excels over earlier works because it gives causes for the phenomenon that plagued the Central States for years over and above the usual "dry weather and strong winds." I won't deny the book has its more pedantic aspects when it gets into climatology and such, but otherwise it's so good I would recommend it for high-school history courses -- the advanced ones, anyway.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. ... written by Timothy Egan and this one is my favorite. In addition to being extremely descriptive By Jim Fagan I have read most of the books written by Timothy Egan and this one is my favorite. In addition to being extremely descriptive, Egan puts the events into proper historical perspective. It is a lesson in the use and misuse of our resources. Having traveled extensively in this area, I appreciated the attention to detail. I could almost taste the dust when reading the book. It is now very affordable on Kindle and you don't want to miss it. I recently read it for the second time for a book review group and picked up on some things that I had missed the first time. I can see why this book won a Pulitzer Prize.⁰ of 0 people found the following review helpful. RMD - Worst Hard Times By r.doolittle This is the first book I've read concerning the Great Dust Bowl. I've seen shows on various History Channels, but this book brought the Dusts home. I know what home is and the fight to keep your home so everything makes sense. I do not know what I would've done. I'm not a farmer so it's difficult to imagine. This book help to imagine what I would've done. So try to take a deep breath of dust and.....

"The Worst Hard Time is an epic story of blind hope and endurance almost beyond belief; it is also, as Tim Egan has told it, a riveting tale of bumptious charlatans, conmen, and tricksters, environmental arrogance and hubris, political chicanery, and a ruinous ignorance of nature's ways. Egan has reached across the generations and brought us the people who played out the drama in this devastated land, and uses their voices to tell the story as well as it could ever be told." — Marq de Villiers, author of *Water: The Fate of Our Most Precious Resource* The dust storms that terrorized America's High Plains in the darkest years of the Depression were like nothing ever seen before or since, and the stories of the people that held on have never been fully told. Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times journalist and author Timothy Egan follows a half-dozen families and their communities through the rise and fall of the region, going from sod homes to new framed houses to huddling in basements with the windows sealed by damp sheets in a futile effort to keep the dust out. He follows their desperate attempts to carry on through blinding black blizzards, crop failure, and the deaths of loved ones. Drawing on the voices of those who stayed and survived—those who, now in their eighties and nineties, will soon carry their memories to the grave—Egan tells a story of endurance and heroism against the backdrop of the Great Depression. As only great history can, Egan's book captures the very voice of the times: its grit, pathos, and abiding courage. Combining the human drama of Isaac's *Storm* with the sweep of *The American People in the Great Depression*, *The Worst Hard Time* is a lasting and important work of American history. Timothy Egan is a national enterprise reporter for the New York Times. He is the author of four books and the recipient of several awards, including the Pulitzer Prize. He lives in Seattle, Washington. "As one who, as a young reporter, survived and reported on the great Dust Bowl disaster, I recommend this book as a dramatic, exciting, and accurate account of that incredible and deadly phenomenon. This is can't-put-it-down history." —Walter Cronkite "The Worst Hard Time is wonderful: ribbed like surf, and battering us with a national epic that ranks second only to the Revolution and the Civil War. Egan knows this and convincingly claims recognition for his subject—as we as a country finally accomplished, first with Lewis and Clark, and then for 'the greatest generation,' many of whose members of course were also survivors of the hardships of the Great Depression. This is a banner, heartfelt but informative book, full of energy, research, and compassion." —Edward Hoagland, author of *Compass Points: How I Lived* "Here's a terrific true story—who could put it down? Egan humanizes Dust Bowl history by telling the vivid stories of the families who stayed behind. One loves the people and admires Egan's vigor and sympathy." —Annie Dillard, author of *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* "The American West got lucky when Tim Egan focused his acute powers of observation on its past and present. Egan's remarkable combination of clear analysis and warm empathy anchors his portrait of the women and men who held on to their places—and held on to their souls—through the nearly unimaginable miseries of the Dust Bowl. This book provides the finest mental exercise for people wanting to deepen, broaden, and strengthen their thinking about the relationship of human beings to this earth." —Patricia N. Limerick, author of *The Legacy of Conquest: The Unbroken Past of the American West*

From Publishers Weekly Starred . Egan tells an extraordinary tale in this visceral account of how America's great, grassy plains turned to dust, and how the ferocious plains winds stirred up an endless series of "black blizzards" that were like a biblical plague: "Dust clouds boiled up, ten thousand feet or more in the sky, and rolled like moving mountains" in what became known as the Dust Bowl. But the plague was man-made, as Egan shows: the plains weren't suited to farming, and plowing up the grass to plant wheat, along with a confluence of economic disaster—the Depression—and natural disaster—eight years of drought—resulted in an ecological and human catastrophe that Egan details with stunning specificity. He grounds his tale in portraits of the people who settled the plains: hardy Americans and immigrants desperate for a piece of land to call their own and lured by the lies of promoters who said the ground was arable. Egan's interviews with survivors produce tales of courage and suffering: Hazel Lucas, for instance, dared

to give birth in the midst of the blight only to see her baby die of "dust pneumonia" when her lungs clogged with the airborne dirt. With characters who seem to have sprung from a novel by Sinclair Lewis or Steinbeck, and Egan's powerful writing, this account will long remain in readers' minds. (Dec. 14) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From The New Yorker On April 14, 1935, the biggest dust storm on record descended over five states, from the Dakotas to Amarillo, Texas. People standing a few feet apart could not see each other; if they touched, they risked being knocked over by the static electricity that the dust created in the air. The Dust Bowl was the product of reckless, market-driven farming that had so abused the land that, when dry weather came, the wind lifted up millions of acres of topsoil and whipped it around in "black blizzards," which blew as far east as New York. This ecological disaster rapidly disfigured whole communities. Egan's portraits of the families who stayed behind are sobering and far less familiar than those of the "exodusters" who staggered out of the High Plains. He tells of towns depopulated to this day, a mother who watched her baby die of "dust pneumonia," and farmers who gathered tumbleweed as food for their cattle and, eventually, for their children. Copyright © 2006 The New Yorker

From Bookmarks Magazine A national correspondent on environmental issues for the New York Times, Timothy Egan describes a central plain that is as distinct and varied as the Rocky Mountains that buttress it to the west. "Linguistic flourishes" (San Francisco Chronicle) and an "authoritative voice" (Portland Oregonian), supported by Egan's Pulitzer Prize-winning reportorial skills, make *The Worst Hard Time* an essential testament-cum-elegy to the price of human progress and the indomitable will of the American spirit. ers are loath to throw around "masterpiece" lightly, but Egan's book gets a couple of nods; the uniformity of the praise seems to affirm his heady accomplishment. Copyright © 2004 Phillips Nelson Media, Inc.