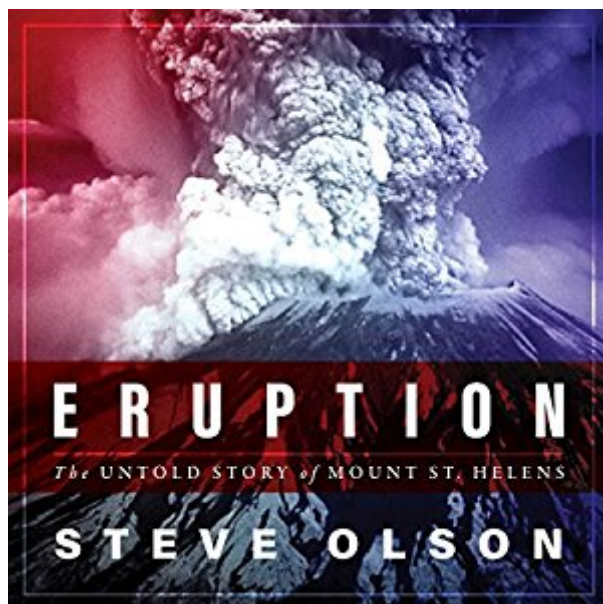


The book was found

Eruption: The Untold Story Of Mount St. Helens



Synopsis

For months in early 1980, scientists, journalists, and ordinary people listened anxiously to rumblings in the long quiescent volcano Mount St. Helens. Still, when a massive explosion took the top off the mountain, no one was prepared. Fifty-seven people died, including newlywed logger John Killian (for years afterward, his father searched for him in the ash), scientist Dave Johnston, and celebrated local curmudgeon Harry Truman. The lives of many others were forever changed. Steve Olson interweaves history, science, and vivid personal stories of the volcano's victims and survivors to portray the disaster as a multifaceted turning point. Powerful economic, political, and historical forces influenced who died when the volcano erupted, and their deaths marked the end of an era in the Pacific Northwest. The eruption of Mount St. Helens transformed volcanic science, the study of environmental resilience, and our perceptions of how to survive on an increasingly dangerous planet.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I had a lot of thoughts/emotions throughout this generally awesome book:~Excitement to read it. I visited the remains of Mt. St. Helens when I was 9. I periodically love volcanoes.~Frustration. Over 50 of the first 139 pages are backstory on the Weyerhaeuser family/company for the past 100 years, and the very in-depth history of the forest service. Both could have been done in 5 or 10 imo)~Incredulity. The mountain developed a rapidly (and constantly) growing bulge on its side for weeks leading up to the explosion but very few seemed to recognize the severity or significance of this... Olson put it best in regards to lessons learned at Mt. St. Helens: "No one will ever again

blithely and knowingly watch the side of a volcano bulge out like a balloon ready to pop and expect to outrun the ensuing catastrophe." -p232~Suspense. Olson took the timeline back and forth, both within the almost 2 months of activity leading up to the eruption and the personal stories of some of those affected by the blast.~Impatience. Olson took the timeline back and forth A LOT in the first half of the book.~Suspense (again) and mounting dread. He started referring to certain people in the past tense, and as I had not memorized the list of those who died before reading this the deaths and survivals were genuinely surprising to me.*giggle*"It was like going to the land of Mordor,' said one logger." -p203~Validation. Take that, loggers! Clearly leaving the downed trees where they lay would result in faster recovery/renewal of the scorched surroundings! I kind of wanted to shout at the corporate interests in their haste to "not waste" the trees to rot.

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