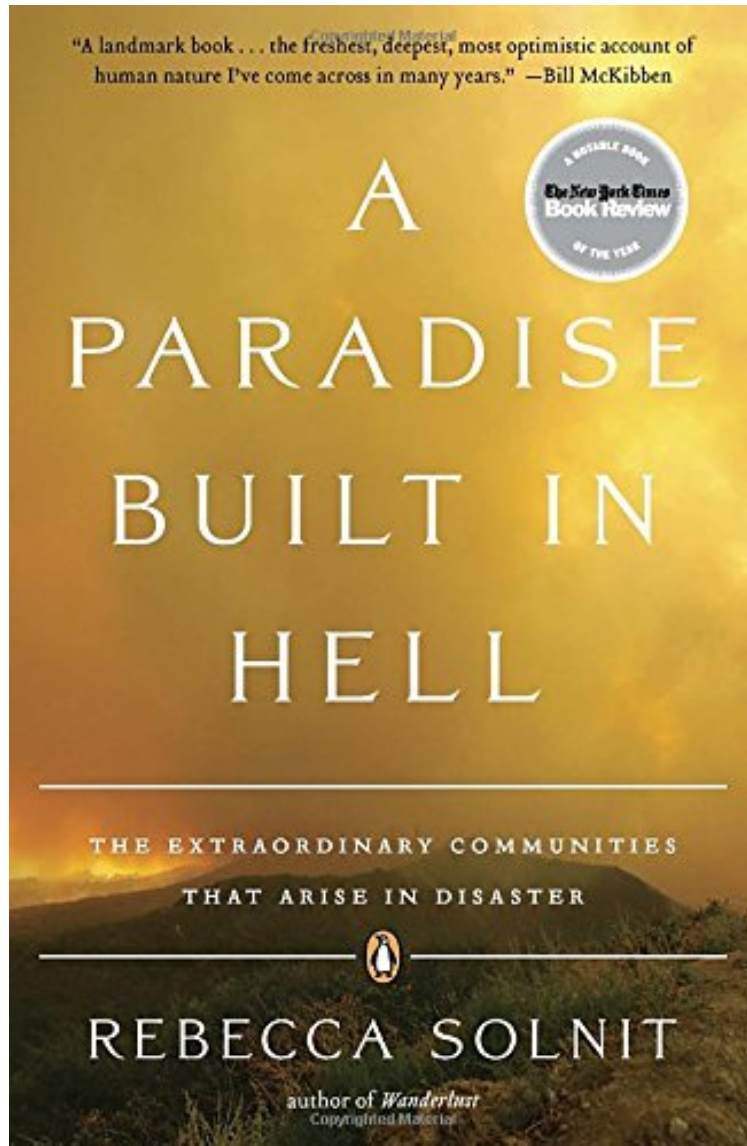


A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities That Arise in Disaster

Rebecca Solnit

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#18974 in Books Rebecca Solnit 2010-08-31 2010-08-31 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.38 x .76 x 5.441, .67 #File Name: 0143118072368 pages A Paradise Built in Hell The Extraordinary Communities That Arise in Disaster | File size: 71.Mb

Rebecca Solnit : A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities That Arise in Disaster before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities That Arise in Disaster:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy george steeleOpenly points out (catalogues) human behavior, under conditions of disaster and human struggles.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A different look at the worldBy M. ReadingI was really impressed by this book. I'm not usually a fan of nonfiction but this book held my attention. I felt like I understood the world in a new way when I finished reading this. The writing style was a little unusual but still easy to understand. It has really forced me to consider our current political situations differently. It also brings a great focus on the negative effects of materialism.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. We Are the AfterlifeBy rally_squirrel_westRebecca Solnit is a combination of Joanna Macy and Joan Didion. We need that. She is a writer to be watched and listened to.Hope In the Dark is the name of one of her other books, and isn't that exactly what we need right now?

From the author of *Men Explain Things to Me* A landmark book that gives impassioned challenge to the social meaning of disasters (The New York Times Book Review)"The freshest, deepest, most optimistic account of human nature I've come across in years." -Bill McKibben Chosen as a Best Book of the Year by the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, New Yorker, San Francisco Chronicle, Washington Post, and Chicago Tribune The most startling thing about disasters, according to award-winning author Rebecca Solnit, is not merely that so many people rise to the occasion, but that they do so with joy. That joy reveals an ordinarily unmet yearning for community, purposefulness, and meaningful work that disaster often provides. *A Paradise Built in Hell* is an investigation of the moments of altruism, resourcefulness, and generosity that arise amid disaster's grief and disruption and considers their implications for everyday life. It points to a new vision of what society could become—one that is less authoritarian and fearful, more collaborative and local.

From Publishers WeeklyNatural and man-made disasters can be utopias that showcase human solidarity and point the way to a freer society, according to this stimulating contrarian study. Solnit (*River of Shadows*) reproves civil defense planners, media alarmists and Hollywood directors who insist that disasters produce terrified mobs prone to looting, murder and cannibalism unless controlled by armed force and government expertise. Surveying disasters from the 1906 San Francisco earthquake to 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina, she shows that the typical response to calamity is spontaneous altruism, self-organization and mutual aid, with neighbors and strangers calmly rescuing, feeding and housing each other. Indeed, the main problem in such emergencies, she contends, is the elite panic of officials who clamp down with National Guardsmen and stifling regulations. Solnit falters when she generalizes her populist brief into an anarchist critique of everyday society that lapses into fuzzy what-ifs and uplifting volunteer testimonials. Still, this vividly written, cogently argued book makes a compelling and timely case for the ability of ordinary people to collectively surmount the direst of challenges. (Sept.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Thought-provoking . . . captivating and compelling . . . there's a hopeful, optimistic, even contagious quality to this superb book." --Los Angeles Times "In her far-reaching and large-spirited new book, Solnit argues that disasters are opportunities as well as oppressions, each one a summons to rediscover the powerful engagement and joy of genuine altruism, civic life, grassroots community, and meaningful work." --San Francisco Chronicle "Stirring . . . fascinating . . . presents a withering critique of modern capitalist society by examining five catastrophes . . . Her account of these events are so stirring that her book is worth reading for its storytelling alone. . . . [An] exciting and important contribution to our understanding of ourselves." --The Washington Post About the AuthorRebecca Solnit is the author of numerous books, including *Hope in the Dark*, *River of Shadows: Eadweard Muybridge and the Technological Wild West*, *Wanderlust: A History of Walking*, and *As Eve Said to the Serpent: On Landscape, Gender, and Art*, which was nominated for the National Book Critics Circle Award in Criticism. In 2003, she received the prestigious Lannan Literary Award.