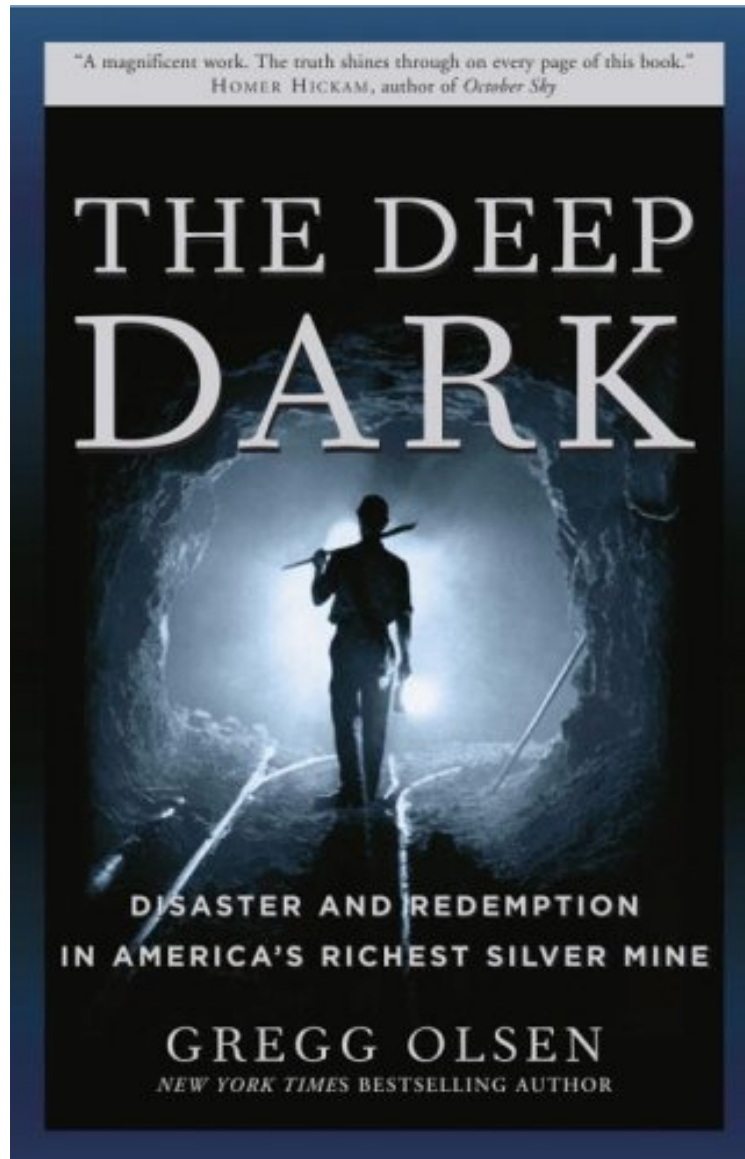


[Mobile book] The Deep Dark: Disaster and Redemption in America's Richest Silver Mine

## The Deep Dark: Disaster and Redemption in America's Richest Silver Mine

*Gregg Olsen*

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**Gregg Olsen : The Deep Dark: Disaster and Redemption in America's Richest Silver Mine** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Deep Dark: Disaster and Redemption in America's Richest Silver Mine:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Journey To The Center of the Earth By V. coppola A thoroughly

researched book about a little-known tragedy that killed more than 90 silver miners in the Idaho mountains, a world so alien to the rest of us, it might as well be the dark side of the moon. The *Dark Deep* also exposes the unstable fault lines in a community and an industry that has more in common with the reckless and unregulated 19th century than today's world. The miners and their women are hard-drinking, hard-working, hard-living, surviving mostly from paycheck to paycheck, slaves to their own macho culture. At best, the company managers and profit-mad owners are incompetent and uncaring, given the inhumane and unsafe conditions a mile underground; criminal at worst. Courage, disaster and heartbreak overflowing, no redemption I can discern. The book unfolds chronologically, a "tick-tock" in the journalism business, but there is no omniscient POV expressed and the reader is hard-pressed to keep track of all the players, which can be frustrating, but nonetheless worth the effort. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A great read!! By Connie L. Spanjer I read *Deep Down Dark*, but found it was too technical, and to be honest, boring!!! By the second half I was almost read to put it down, but kept reading, because not finishing a book is something I just won't do. A few weeks later I saw *The Deep Dark* on , and thought I would give it a try. Well, what a great read! You really get to know the miners and their families, and all the awful pain they must have been going through. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A sad story captured with beauty. By Tish Gregg Olsen narrates the disaster out events with such sensitivity and texture, introducing the reader to an unfamiliar world and an event so many years ago. Thank you for honoring the lives affected by and involved in this disaster by revealing the deep truths unreached in the news reports of the time.

For nearly a century, Kellogg, Idaho, was home to America's richest silver mine, Sunshine Mine. Mining there, as everywhere, was not an easy life, but regardless of the risk, there was something about being underground, the lure of hitting a deep vein of silver. The promise of good money and the intense bonds of friendship brought men back year after year. Mining is about being a man and a fighter in a job where tomorrow always brings the hope of a big score. On May 2, 1972, 174 miners entered Sunshine Mine on their daily quest for silver. Aboveground, safety engineer Bob Launhardt sat in his office, filing his usual mountain of federal and state paperwork. From his office window he could see the air shafts that fed fresh air into the mine, more than a mile below the surface. The air shafts usually emitted only tiny coughs of exhaust; unlike dangerously combustible coal mines, Sunshine was a fireproof hardrock mine, nothing but cold, dripping wet stone. There were many safety concerns at Sunshine, but fire wasn't one of them. The men and the company swore the mine was unburnable, so when thick black smoke began pouring from one of the air shafts, Launhardt was as amazed as he was alarmed. When the alarm sounded, less than half of the dayshift was able to return to the surface. The others were trapped underground, too deep in the mine to escape. Scores of miners died almost immediately, frozen in place as they drilled, ate lunch, napped, or chatted. No one knew what was burning or where the smoke had come from. But in one of the deepest corners of the mine, Ron Flory and Tom Wilkinson were left alone and in total darkness, surviving off a trickle of fresh air from a borehole. The miners' families waited and prayed, while Launhardt, reeling from the shock of losing so many men on his watch, refused to close up the mine or give up the search until he could be sure that no one was left underground. In *The Deep Dark*, Gregg Olsen looks beyond the intensely suspenseful story of the fire and rescue to the wounded heart of Kellogg, a quintessential company town that has never recovered from its loss. A vivid and haunting chapter in the history of working-class America, this is one of the great rescue stories of the twentieth century. From the Hardcover edition.

From Publishers Weekly The 1972 fire at Idaho's Sunshine silver mine was one of America's worst mine disasters, with 91 miners killed some in mid-stride by a "stealthy tornado" of smoke and carbon monoxide. True crime journalist Olsen (*Abandoned Prayers*) has the narrative chops for this story. His suspenseful account conveys the already hellish everyday atmosphere of the mine, the panic and chaos of the sudden catastrophe, the heroic efforts to evacuate, the ghastly deaths of victims, the (sometimes overdrawn) horror of their decomposing bodies and the ordeal of two miners trapped in an air pocket. But he goes further, embedding his chronicle within a social panorama of the macho subculture of the miners whose disdain for safety precautions may have raised the body count even as their hard-bitten sense of fraternity held them together in the emergency and of the larger working-class community that frayed and bonded in the face of the tragedy. Like Sebastian Junger's *The Perfect Storm*, Olsen's is a story of male workers engaged in a primordial resource-extraction occupation, battling natural elements earth, fire and (poisoned) air that overwhelm the ties of masculine solidarity. In his gripping treatment, stocked with vividly drawn characters, one finds a metaphorical elegy for America's doomed industrial proletariat. Photos. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist On May 2, 1972, a fire broke out deep inside the Sunshine Mine, in Kellogg, Idaho, while nearly 175 men were at work. Nearly half the workers made it out safely, and there were 91 deaths. This poignant book offers a detailed account of the fire, the toll it took on the small mining community, and the nail-bitingly suspenseful rescue operation to save the lives of two men trapped in the "deep dark" mine who survived for more than a week by eating the bagged lunches of their dead coworkers. Olsen, author of a number of books in the true-crime genre, brings his considerable narrative skills to bear in this true-adventure tale. He tells the story in remarkably vivid detail, forcing the reader to experience the horror of the deep dark and to feel the

exhilaration of the successful rescue. David Pitt Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Olsen tells a vividly detailed, heartbreaking tale about a dark, alien place, the people who loved working there and a town that has never been the same. He brings to life the hot, dirty, treasure-hunt environment where "danger was a miner's heroin." Seattle Times "Powerful and haunting" Seattle Post-Intelligencer Gregg Olsen is the perfect guide as he leads the reader down into a whole new world underground, with its own lore, language, and laws. The Deep Dark is as gripping and necessary as true-life drama gets. Stewart O'Nan, author of The Circus Fire Compellingly told, honestly written, The Deep Dark is a story that resonates and lingers, long after the final page is read. In addition to being a gripping account of an American tragedy, it is a brutal, enlightening, bone-chilling glimpse into the underground of the nation's mining industry. Gregg Olsen skillfully captures the details of Sunshine Mine, its ill-fated miners, the friends and family left behind, and the disaster itself with the intimacy of an insider, making you feel the smoke, the heat, the confinement, and, ultimately, the terror of that May day in 1972. It is a story at once horrific and poignant, wholly absorbing and extraordinarily moving. Jennifer Niven, author of The Ice Master In the tradition of Young Men and Fire, The Deep Dark is an exceptional, haunting documentary. Like an epic folk song, it crackles with the language of rough men working and dying in unspeakable ways and pays tribute to a community that might otherwise be bleached from our memories. This book does what all superior journalism should do: it unearths an important story and tells it with great feeling. McKay Jenkins, author of The White Death Gregg Olsen's narrative is so riveting I had to keep reminding myself that this is a nonfiction page-turner, not a suspense novel. The grit, the darkness, the stifling air and choking smoke, the fear of being trapped deep underground, the tender camaraderie between the toughest of men I experienced all of them reading this book. Stephen Puleo, author of Dark Tide: The Great Boston Molasses Flood of 1919 Olsen presents the extraordinary story of the Sunshine Mine disaster in gripping, heartrending prose. In Olsen's telling, we come to see that the story is not merely a deadly disaster but rather a tale of the uncommon courage, perseverance, and heroism of everyday people. Edward T. O'Donnell, author of Ship Ablaze: The Tragedy of the Steamboat General Slocum Gregg Olsen has presented a well-researched, graphic account of the worst underground fire in a hardrock mine in American history. When the Shine resumed underground operations in December 1972, I hired out as a replacement for one of the guys who died in the fire. . . . I can tell you The Deep Dark is as real as it gets. I actually found myself short of breath as I read. Jerry Dolph, author of Fire in the Hole: The Untold Story of Hardrock Miners "Gripping." Oregonian "Spellbinding." Daily Olympian "Harrowing." Bellingham Herald "A spectacular piece of journalism." Missoulian "An exciting, vital, memorable book." Salem Statesman Journal "Insightful and a powerful narrative." Vancouver Columbian From the Hardcover edition.