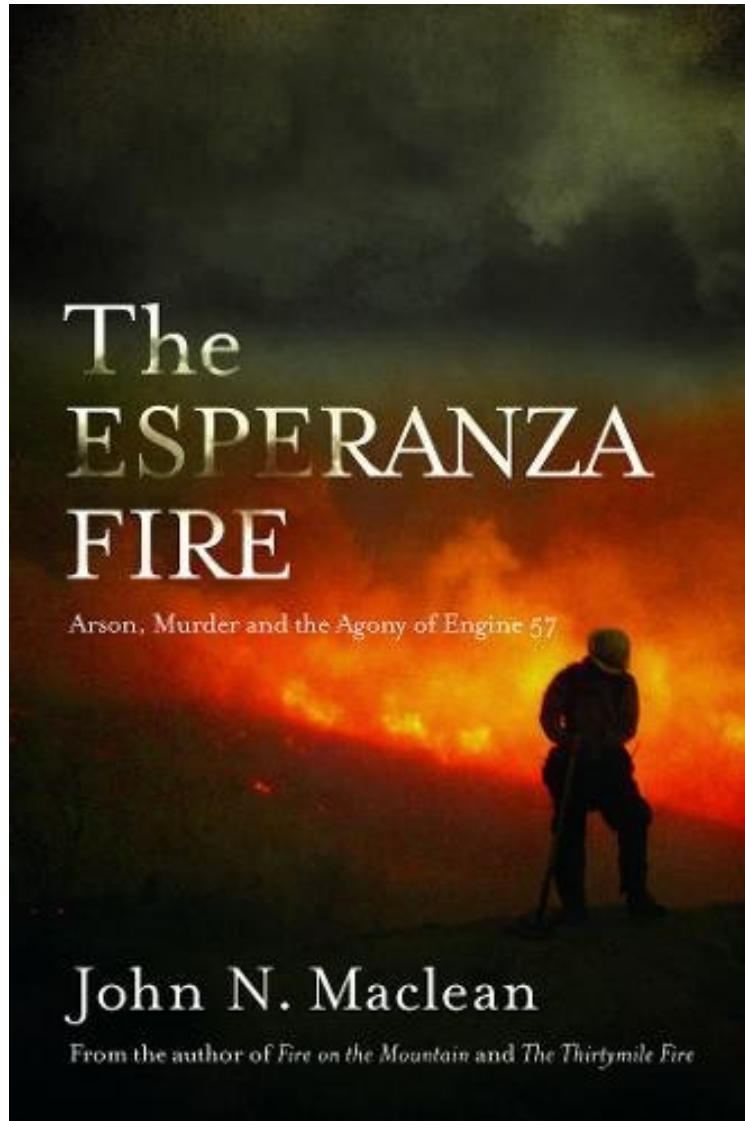


(Read free) The Esperanza Fire: Arson, Murder, and the Agony of Engine 57

The Esperanza Fire: Arson, Murder, and the Agony of Engine 57

John N. Maclean

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John N. Maclean : The Esperanza Fire: Arson, Murder, and the Agony of Engine 57 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Esperanza Fire: Arson, Murder, and the Agony of Engine 57:

15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Very accurate!By mooseI am the sister-in-law of the Fire Captain who was killed in the Esperanza Fire, so I am very knowledgable about what really happened. John spent six years interviewing, researching, and and organizing this tragic and unbelievable incident. I have read the book twice so far and can verify the accuracy of its contents. I am pleased with the way that the book stays focused on the facts and is

not filled with personal opinions. While reading *The Esperanza Fire* I found myself thinking back on that morning when the amber colored sky was raining ashes. It was like something out of an apocalyptic movie. John explains in the book moment by moment what had happened. He also includes information about the trial and his continual communications with the convicted murderer. *The Esperanza Fire* is an historic account of that horrible tragedy and reminds us to always remember the brave fire fighters who lost their lives and those who fought the fiery battle. Their lives and families lives were changed forever. 11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Great book
By Pill2Maclean is a great writer, it reads like a novel, but is factual. An easy read of a difficult subject. As a former Wildland FF, I have some knowledge of the subject, but he does a great job of explaining the subject so anyone can understand what occurred. Bless you Mr Maclean for all you do for the Wildland Fire community. I have read all your other books on fire also, and your Dad's. Thanks
5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Book
By John West Fire Captain, CalFire (Ret'd) A few years ago I contacted John and suggested that he might look into writing a book about the Esperanza Fire. I had retired from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in 2005, the year before the Esperanza Fire occurred but had heard lots of talk about the incident from my fire service contacts. John was kind enough to answer me and said that he was in the early stages of research on a book about this fire. Since that time I have been anxiously awaiting the books publication and have not been disappointed in John's efforts. I might add that I always kept a copy of the classic "Young Men and Fire" written by John's dad Norman Maclean on the station book shelf for my young firefighters and engineers to read and learn from along with John's book "Fire On The Mountain" about the South Canyon Fire. My hope now is that there will never again be a need to write another book like this.

When a jury returns to a packed courtroom to announce its verdict in a capital murder case every noise, even a scraped chair or an opening door, resonates like a high-tension cable snap. Spectators stop rustling in their seats; prosecution and defense lawyers and the accused stiffen into attitudes of wariness; and the judge looks on owlshly. In that atmosphere of heightened expectation the jury entered a Riverside County Superior Court room in southern California to render a decision in the trial of Raymond Oyler, charged with murder for setting the Esperanza Fire of 2006, which killed a five man Forest Service engine crew sent to fight the blaze. Today, wildland fire is everybodys business, from the White House to the fireground. Wildfires have grown bigger, more intense, more destructive and more expensive. Federal taxpayers, for example, footed most of the \$16 million bill for fighting the Esperanza Fire. But the highest cost was the lives of the five-man crew of Engine 57, the first wildland engine crew ever to be wiped out by flames.

From *Booklist* Maclean (*The Thirtymile Fire*, 2007) returns to a setting he knows all too well: wildfires and those who fight and investigate them. In clear and precise prose, he lays out the facts about the 2006 Esperanza Fire in Southern California that killed five U.S. Forest Service firefighters. There are a lot of voices to consider here, from those physically near the doomed men in their final moments to those up the chain of command and the investigators who tracked the arsonist. *Esperanza* is notable for both its loss of life and because it led to the first successful prosecution of an arsonist for a wildfire. Maclean thus treats his subject as a serious police procedural, giving readers the lay of the land, documenting communication as the fire was fought, and following up with everyone involved. It is a truly exhaustive analysis from the fire through the conviction. This is as thorough and gripping an account as could be hoped for, but its also a very human one. For CSI-, Bones-, and NCIS-loving readers, it is an engrossing read. -- Colleen Mondor It reads like a taut murder mystery, a whodunit novel you cant put down. *The Forestry Source*