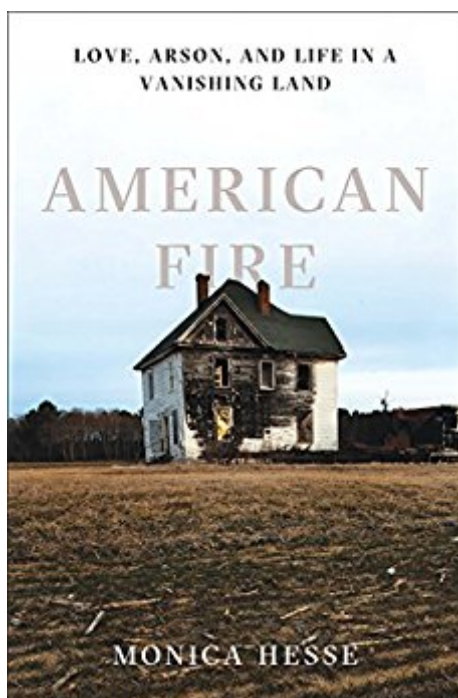


The book was found

American Fire: Love, Arson, And Life In A Vanishing Land



Synopsis

Recommended Summer reading by TIME, Entertainment Weekly, Real Simple, and Elle. A breathtaking feat of reportage, *American Fire* combines procedural with love story, redefining American tragedy for our time. The arsons started on a cold November midnight and didn't stop for months. Night after night, the people of Accomack County waited to see which building would burn down next, regarding each other at first with compassion, and later suspicion. Vigilante groups sprang up, patrolling the rural Virginia coast with cameras and camouflage. Volunteer firefighters slept at their stations. The arsonist seemed to target abandoned buildings, but local police were stretched too thin to surveil them all. Accomack was desolate—there were hundreds of abandoned buildings. And by the dozen they were burning. The culprit, and the path that led to these crimes, is a story of twenty-first century America. Washington Post reporter Monica Hesse first drove down to the reeling county to cover a hearing for Charlie Smith, a struggling mechanic who upon his capture had promptly pleaded guilty to sixty-seven counts of arson. But as Charlie's confession unspooled, it got deeper and weirder. He wasn't lighting fires alone; his crimes were galvanized by a surprising love story. Over a year of investigating, Hesse uncovered the motives of Charlie and his accomplice, girlfriend Tonya Bundick, a woman of steel-like strength and an inscrutable past. Theirs was a love built on impossibly tight budgets and simple pleasures. They were each other's inspiration and escape—until they weren't. Though it's hard to believe today, one hundred years ago Accomack was the richest rural county in the nation. Slowly it's been drained of its industry—agriculture—as well as its wealth and population. In an already remote region, limited employment options offer little in the way of opportunity. A mesmerizing and crucial panorama with nationwide implications, *American Fire* asks what happens when a community gets left behind. Hesse brings to life the Eastern Shore and its inhabitants, battling a punishing economy and increasingly terrified by a string of fires they could not explain. The result evokes the soul of rural America—a land half gutted before the fires even began.

Book Information

File Size: 7869 KB

Print Length: 259 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1631490516

Publisher: Liveright; 1 edition (July 11, 2017)

Publication Date: July 11, 2017

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01M3QH76T

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #1,502 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #1 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Human Geography #1 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Americas > United States > State & Local > South #2 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Sociology > Rural

Customer Reviews

This is a stunning book. I read it (rather, I swallowed it) in three marathon sittings. The story is captivating, unfolding a troubling and urgent mystery in a once-proud region now become a backwater. It's a page-turner. But the keen insights about this county and its people, coupled with an engaging style, are what push this book into the territory of the extraordinary. I especially appreciated Hesse's ability to balance clear affection for the county's residents with honest critique. Both beauty marks and blemishes. Read it first for a compelling story. Read it a second time to appreciate this fine portrait of a lost America.

Excellent story telling, kept me in suspense. I also enjoyed the descriptions of the real life characters in the book. If I had a large block of time I could have binge read this. I have never been to this part of the country where the book takes place, so for me I was fascinated by it's history and current state of condition. The best book I've read this year!

All I can say is what a well researched story ! I remembered watching this on the news all the way in the Midwest when the fires were blazing away . I found the story a fantastic read that held a underlining warmth for the rural areas of the fire's county.

Well written book and am enjoying it. But why is there no map of the area described in the book? We also could have used a diagram with the fires noted near each town. A little hard to follow

sometimes. I found myself going to my road atlas to understand the geography of the area described in the book.

Interesting info on a bizarre topic. Enjoyed reading about the situation in that area. I'm still puzzled about how this all transpired in spite of the authors speculation.

Interesting story to a point in the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Ran on a bit too long due to all the legal and investigative reporting. Good writer with a blazing tale!

This story was close to home. I have spent many years on the Eastern Shore. Monica Hesse captured the essence of life here. For many, there is a hidden desperation and sadness that words cannot express. To live a successful life here, one must be motivated to rise out of the culture and create a way to self expression that is motivated and meaningful.

fascinating story about an arson escapade showing points of view of nearly all sides involved.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

American Fire: Love, Arson, and Life in a Vanishing Land Fire Encyclopedia: Kindle Fire Manual for the latest generation of Kindle E-Readers and Fire Tablets, Kindle Voyage, Kindle Paperwhite, Fire HD 6, Fire HD 8, Fire HD 10, and Fire HDX 8.9 The Vanishing Girl (The Vanishing Girl Series Book 1) The Up Stairs Lounge Arson: Thirty-Two Deaths in a New Orleans Gay Bar, June 24, 1973 All-new Fire HD8 and Fire HD10 Tips, Tricks, and Traps: A comprehensive user guide to the new Fire HD8 and Fire HD10 tablets Fire Stick: The Ultimate Fire Stick User Guide - Learn How To Start Using Fire Stick, Plus Little-Known Tips And Tricks! (Streaming ... TV Stick User Guide, How To Use Fire Stick) Fire TV: Fire Stick: The Ultimate User Guide to Fire Stick To TV, Movies, Apps, Games & Much More (how to use Fire Stick, streaming, tips ... (User guides, internet, free movie Book 2) How to Install Kodi on Fire Stick: Install Kodi on Fire Stick: Step-By-Step Instructions with Screen Shots! (2017 Kodi User Guide, fire tv stick, kodi book, kodi fire tv stick, kodi stick) Fire Encyclopedia: Fire TV and Fire Stick Manual (First Edition). Fire Stick: Start Using your Fire TV to the fullest: Best Ways to Unlock Fire TV Stick (the 2017 updated user guide, home tv, tips and tricks, digital ... prime, by echo, expert, internet) Fire HD 8 with Alexa: Unlocking Your All-New Fire HD 8 Tablet with Alexa: The Ultimate User Guide on Everything You Need to Know About the Latest Fire HD 8 with Alexa Kindle Fire HD 8 & 10 Manual: All New Fire HD User Guide (Kindle Fire HD Manual) Aloha: Love, Suite Love/Fixed by Love/Game of Love/It All Adds Up to Love (Inspirational

Romance Collection) Silent Sunflowers: A Balkan Memoir : Two American Artists and Their Search for Vanishing Folk Art The Vanishing American Adult: Our Coming-of-Age Crisis - and How to Rebuild a Culture of Self-Reliance The Vanishing Hitchhiker: American Urban Legends and Their Meanings American Endurance: Buffalo Bill, the Great Cowboy Race of 1893, and the Vanishing Wild West Self Love: Changing Your Life Through Self-Love and Mindfulness (2 Books In 1), Learn How To Love Yourself More, Calm Your Mind, Reduce Your Stress and Live a Happier Life! The Vanishing American Barber Shop: An Illustrated History of Tonsorial Art, 1860-1960 The Nature and Culture of Rattan: Reflections on Vanishing Life in the Forests of Southeast Asia

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)