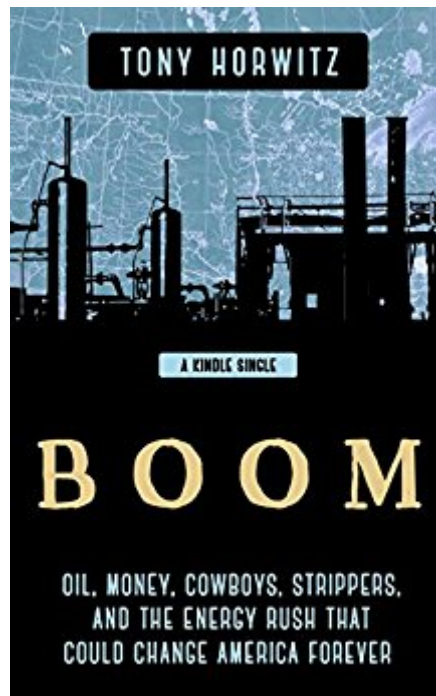


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BOOM: Oil, Money, Cowboys, Strippers, And The Energy Rush That Could Change America Forever (Kindle Single)



Synopsis

In *BOOM*, prize-winning reporter Tony Horwitz takes a spirited road trip through the wild new frontier of energy in North America. His journey begins in subarctic Alberta, where thousands of miners labor in an industrial moonscape to extract the region's oil-rich tar sands. Horwitz then follows the route of the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline that may carry tar-sands oil from Canada across Montana, the Dakotas, and Nebraska en route to Gulf Coast refineries. Horwitz's 4000-mile adventure brings him into contact with astonishing characters on all sides of the energy boom. He meets a pig and a cement head hoping to make a quick fortune laboring in the oilfields; casino operators and strippers eager to relieve workers of their high wages; farmers and Native Americans who fear the pipeline's impact on land, water, and climate; and Keystone cowboys who tout the economic benefits of the oil-rush in progress on the Plains. *BOOM* is both a gritty, boots-on-the-ground odyssey and a profound exploration of what's at stake for the environment, the economy, and foreign policy as America becomes the largest energy producer in the world.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR Tony Horwitz is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who spent a decade as a foreign correspondent, mainly covering wars and conflicts in the Middle East, Africa, and Europe for the Wall Street Journal. His books include the bestsellers *CONFEDERATES IN THE ATTIC*, *BLUE LATITUDES*, *BAGHDAD WITHOUT A MAP*, and *A VOYAGE LONG AND STRANGE*. His latest book, *MIDNIGHT RISING*, was named a New York Times Notable Book of 2011 and one of the year's ten best books by Library Journal and won the 2012 William Henry Seward Award for excellence in Civil War biography. Horwitz has also written for The New Yorker and Smithsonian and has been a fellow at Harvard's Radcliffe Institute. He lives with his wife, Geraldine Brooks, and their sons, Nathaniel and Bizu, on Martha's Vineyard.

PRAISE FOR TONY HORWITZ

"*Boom* is the very model of dauntless reporting, lucent prose, memorable portraits of a range of characters, all in a story driven by a moral dilemma with stakes that couldn't possibly be higher." —San Francisco Chronicle

"Horwitz wears himself lightly, and is extraordinarily good at drawing out strangers. Cheerfully energetic, he goes where a less intrepid reporter would not." —Roy Blount, Jr., The New York Times

"Like travel writer Bill Bryson, Horwitz has a penchant for meeting colorful characters and getting himself into bizarre situations." —The Christian Science Monitor

"Horwitz has an ear for a good yarn and an instinct for the trail leading to an entertaining anecdote." —The Washington Post

"A trip with Horwitz is as good as it gets." —The Charlotte Observer

Book Information

File Size: 6254 KB

Print Length: 117 pages

Publication Date: July 1, 2014

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00LH5G1F0

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #80,921 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #5 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle Singles > The Sciences #16 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle Nonfiction Singles > Reporting #25 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Science > Environment > Conservation

Customer Reviews

The original Keystone pipeline project was proposed almost exactly 9 years ago, in February 2005. The Keystone XL extension, also known as "Phase IV" of the pipeline project, was proposed in 2008, and has now been in and out of the front pages of the news for quite a few years. We now expect the current U.S. administration to make a determination on it early this year, but what many people may not know is that this pipeline is actually already in operation, and what the real issues are on both sides as we anticipate a final decision on it's fate. Author Tony Horwitz decided to travel to Alberta, Canada, the starting point for the pipeline, and then travel down through Alberta and into the U.S., through Montana, South Dakota, and Nebraska, to traverse the approximate route of the proposed pipeline extension. Horwitz is not the first to think of doing this and writing about it, and in fact he has been preceded by at least two other books, thus my designation of this book as "Take 3" in the title to my review - see the other books listed at the end of this review. Along the way, Horowitz meets and talks to folks on both sides of the pipeline dispute - the locals who favor it and hope to profit from the business it will bring, the locals who oppose it and worry of the potential impact on the environment and to their land, and to a smaller extent the environmental activists and company employees who represent the two sides of the pipeline dispute and bring forward their arguments in favor or opposition to it. There is some insight to be gained from following Horwitz's story and

hearing the voices of the individuals on both sides.

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