



Reckoning at Eagle Creek: The Secret Legacy of Coal in the Heartland

Jeff Biggers

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Set in the ruins of his family's strip-mined homestead in the Shawnee National Forest in southern Illinois, award-winning journalist and historian Jeff Biggers delivers a deeply personal portrait of the overlooked human and environmental costs of our nation's dirty energy policy. Beginning with the policies of Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson, chronicling the removal of Native Americans and the hidden story of legally sanctioned black slavery in the land of Lincoln, *Reckoning at Eagle Creek* vividly describes the mining wars for union recognition and workplace safety, and the devastating consequences of industrial strip-mining. At the heart of our national debate over climate change and the crucial transition toward clean energy, Biggers exposes the fallacy of "clean coal" and shatters the marketing myth that southern Illinois represents the "Saudi Arabia of coal."

Reckoning at Eagle Creek is ultimately an exposé of "historicide," one that traces coal's harrowing legacy through the great American family saga of sacrifice and resiliency and the extraordinary process of recovering our nation's memory.

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