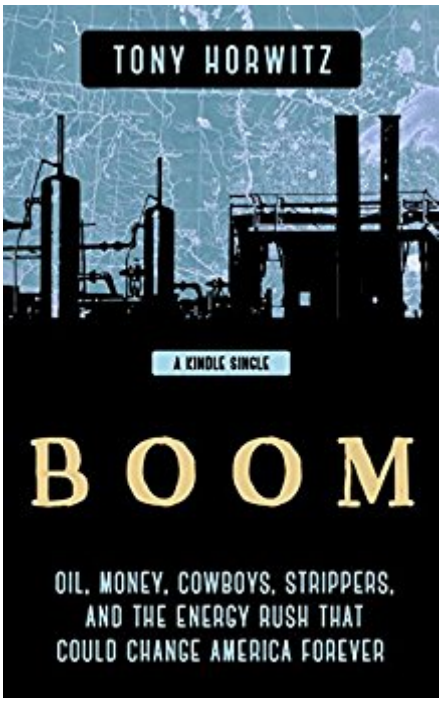
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BOOM: Oil, Money, Cowboys, Strippers, And The Energy Rush That Could Change America Forever (Kindle Single)



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Synopsis

In BOOM, prizeÃ¢â ¬â œwinning 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 regionÃ¢â ¬â„¢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. HorwitzÃ¢â ¬â„¢s 4000-mile adventure brings him into contact with astonishing characters on all sides of the energy boom. He meets Ã¢â ¬Å“rig pigsÃ¢â ¬Â• and Ã¢â ¬Å“cement headsÃ¢â ¬Â• 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 pipelineÃ¢â ¬â„¢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 whatÃ¢â ¬â„¢s at stakeÃ¢â ¬â •for the environment, the economy, and foreign policyÃ¢â ¬â •as America becomes the largest energy producer in the world. ABOUT THE AUTHOR Tony Horwitz is a Pulitzer PrizeÃ¢â ¬â œwinning 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 yearÃ¢â ¬â„¢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 HarvardÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Radcliffe Institute. He lives with his wife, Geraldine Brooks, and their sons, Nathaniel and Bizu, on MarthaÃ¢â ¬â„¢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.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •San Francisco ChronicleÃ¢â ¬Å“Horwitz wears himself lightly, and is extraordinarily good at drawing out strangers. Cheerfully energetic, he goes where a less intrepid reporter would not.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Roy Blount, Jr., The New York TimesÃ¢â ¬Å“Like travel writer Bill Bryson, Horwitz has a penchant for meeting colorful characters and getting himself into bizarre situations.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •The Christian Science Monitor Ã¢â ¬Å“Horwitz has an ear for a good yarn and an instinct for the trail leading to an entertaining anecdote.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •The Washington PostÃ¢â ¬Å“A trip with Horwitz is as good as it gets.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •The Charlotte Observer

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Who would have thought that a book that describes a tour of the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline could be so enjoyable? The author takes us through his marathon drive that begins in Fort McMurray, Alberta and then goes through Saskatchewan, Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska. Great descriptions of the good, the bad and the very ugly. The best descriptions were of the many people he interviews during his journey. We learn about the lives of the predominantly male workers in the oil sand fields of Alberta. Bars, strip clubs and giant trucks. We learn of those who live in fear of the damage the pipeline may do.Describing the lives of people living in the wide open spaces is as much a part of the book as the pipeline. Who would have known of the clans of German speaking folks in northern Montana? Alcohol seemed to be a good means for getting people to talk. It led to the author getting multiple rounds of Vegas Bomb in one of the many bars visited, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“a revolting mix of peach schnapps and Red Bull.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• Interviewing people in bars led to the author being thrown out of one of them.Here are my tips for completing the reading experience. Go to Google Maps and then move to the Fort McMurray area. Switch to the satellite view and move north of the city to see the vast areas consumed by the oil sand extraction.

Then move the view to the ground level to get a view of the huge operation.I read the book on my Kindle Paperwhite. A nice way to read it, but it doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t do justice to the photographs. To see them, I fired up the Kindle Cloud Reader on my computer. One could not appreciate the photo of the Future Farmers of America without seeing it in full size and full color. And finally, at the end, there is the fun photo of Tony Horowitz and his dog. What a trooper!

Tony Horwitz had me at the first sentence. It is possible to be both funny and alarming. I thought this book was particularly good explaining how the self-righteousness of some of the environmentalists opposing the Keystone XL pipeline undercuts their effectiveness, as well as the nuances of reactions to the pipeline in some of the reddest states in the country. I loved the Cowboys and Indians. We will need oil for the foreseeable future, but perhaps not as much of it as we think.

This is an excellent explanation of the Keystone XL, the awful environmental devastation it poses, and those whose greed blinds them to the real issues. I had no idea the that this is a completely different way of extracting oil. I wish everyone would read this book. I don't think a lot people realize what this is really about: further destruction of planet earth.

After Friday's State Department finding about the environmental impact of the Keystone XL Pipeline, I became more fascinated with the reality of what this pipeline really means for the US and the world. Tony Horwitz delves deeply into how the pipeline impacts jobs and the environment, giving both the pluses and the minuses. Fascinating and entertaining.

The author follows the existing and proposed route of the Keystone XL pipeline from Alberta to Nebraska, interviewing folks on both sides of the issue on the present and future effects of the project. A quick read, it probably won't change your mind about much of anything, but it does present a snapshot of the lives of some of the folks affected and the mid-western milieu through which the pipeline travels. Moderately entertaining. I liked his book retracing the voyages of Captain Cook (Blue Latitudes) better, but it's in the same vein as this one.

BOOM: Oil, Money, Cowboys, Strippers, and the Energy Rush . . . is not There Will Be Blood, and Tony Horwitz is not Upton Sinclair, and for that the reader should be very pleased. If Horwitz has a strong opinion either way on the long festering XL Pipeline debate he keeps it, mostly, deep under wraps and just . . . listens. Without judgement.So, we not only get both sides of the debate through

the mouths of diverse and colorful characters, we get the people out on the fringes - in every sense of the word. That turns this from an interesting road trip into a short, fascinating glimpse of a part of the U.S. seldom represented in media, popular or otherwise.The result is entertaining and eye-opening, in a good way, because the sense of optimism (however guarded) running beneath the surface - regardless of how the pipeline ends - is startling.

Longer than a magazine article, but shorter than a book, this is a great example of how and why digital publishing makes sense, despite the author's complaints in the Op-Ed pages of the NY Times. I ordered it after reading his essay, and I enjoyed reading it. I don't accept his premise that he was somehow cheated when his e-publisher went under--at least with , he could publish it himself and find an audience. Which he has!The story is fascinating at times, with descriptions of the hellish landscape that an oil boomtown creates. It is also a little boring at times, as it is as much a travelogue as an expose. He does do a good job of presenting the unvarnished opinions of people on both sides of the controversy--yes, the pipeline creates jobs, and yes, we need the oil to keep our economy going, but also, yes, it makes a hideous mess, even if it works exactly as intended with no leaks, and yes, it may be hastening climate change, which might make our other problems all pale by comparison.I'm sure that if we had lived in Birmingham England or rural New England in the 17th century, we would also have been appalled at the lovely landscape being marred by industry--the industry that makes modern life possible.Or is this a whole different order of damage, not only aesthetic but ultimately destructive on a scale that is hard to imagine? Most of the people who stand to benefit, short-term, can't bear to even ask that question. If we don't take the oil out of the ground, someone else will, they reason. And that is true.Thought-provoking as well as readable. A nice piece of work.

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