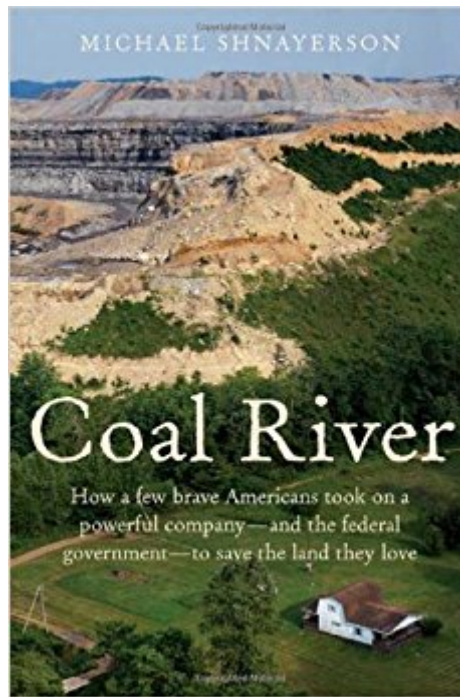


The book was found

Coal River



Synopsis

One of America's most dramatic environmental battles is unfolding in southern West Virginia. Coal companies are blasting the mountains, decapitating them for coal. The forested ridge tops and valley streams of Appalachia—•one of the country's natural treasures—•are being destroyed, along with towns and communities. An entire culture is disappearing, and to this day, most Americans have no idea it's happening. Michael Shnayerson first traveled to the coal fields four years ago, on assignment for Vanity Fair. There he met an inspiring young lawyer named Joe Lovett, who was fighting mountaintop removal in court with a series of brilliant and daring lawsuits. He also met Judy Bonds, whose grassroots group, the Coal River Mountain Watch, was speaking out in a region where talking truth to power was both brave and dangerous. The two had joined forces to take on Massey Energy, the largest and most aggressive of the coal companies, and its swaggering, notorious chairman, Don Blankenship. Coal River is Shnayerson's account of this dramatic struggle. From courtroom to boardroom, forest clearing to factory floor, Shnayerson gives us a novelistic and compelling portrait of the people who risked their reputations and livelihoods in the fight against King Coal.

Book Information

Hardcover: 336 pages

Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux; 1st edition (January 8, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0374125147

ISBN-13: 978-0374125141

Product Dimensions: 6.6 x 1.3 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (25 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,005,619 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #129 inÂ Books > Business & Money > Industries > Energy & Mining > Natural Resource Extraction #451 inÂ Books > Business & Money > Industries > Energy & Mining > Oil & Energy #2061 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Commentary & Opinion

Customer Reviews

I picked up this book because it takes place close to where I grew up (much of it in the same county), because I love the mountains and fear for them, because I grew up in an area dominated by the coal industry and I have an interest and a grudging admiration for it. But I liked the book most

of all for the story of a rookie lawyer and a few clients with little in the way of resources but a burning desire to fight for what's right. At times it reads a bit like "A Civil Action," or perhaps a John Grisham novel, though the real-life tactics of restraining orders and injunctions played out over the battleground of arcane environmental regulations is hardly the stuff of a legal thriller. On the other hand, the book has a great villain, and author Michael Shnayerson does a good job of trying to explain what motivates Massey Chairman Don Blankenship. This book was written before the deadly explosion at the Upper Big Branch Mine near where much of this book plays out, and his cataloging of Massey's sorry safety record seems prophetic. Odd too, is Massey's insistently standing by its controversial and -- toward the end -- arguably inept, chairman. It was only after 29 miners died at Upper Big Branch after this book was published that Blankenship got the ax. For someone who grew up in West Virginia politics, it's a treat as well. I can remember when federal judges who now go by grander-sounding names were once Joe Bob or Chuck. I found myself wanting to tell the author a bit of backstory, but usually he came around to relating it. (Though the book mentions Richard Neely, it doesn't say he was once a state Supreme Court justice. Neither does it mention that Sen. Jay Rockefeller, now a friend of coal, once opposed strip mining. He lost big in that election.

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

Coal Trains: The History of Railroading and Coal in the United States Coal River River of Dreams: the Story of the Hudson River River of Love in an Age of Pollution: The Yamuna River of Northern India A Treasury of Mississippi River Folklore Stories, Ballads, Traditions and Folkways of the Mid-American River Country Fishes of the Middle Savannah River Basin: With Emphasis on the Savannah River Site Streams to the River, River to the Sea AMC River Guide New Hampshire/Vermont (AMC River Guide Series) AMC River Guide Maine (AMC River Guide Series) Green River, Running Red: The Real Story of the Green River Killer--America's Deadliest Serial Murderer Loretta Lynn: Coal Miner's Daughter A Coal Miner's Bride: the Diary of Anetka Kaminska (Dear America) Southern West Virginia: Coal Country (Postcard History Series) Clean Disruption of Energy and Transportation: How Silicon Valley Will Make Oil, Nuclear, Natural Gas, Coal, Electric Utilities and Conventional Cars Obsolete by 2030 Coal: A Human History Advanced Pulverized Coal Injection Technology and Blast Furnace Operation The Palaeontological Association Field Guide to Fossils, Plant Fossils of the British Coal Measures (Palaentology FG Fossils) Producing Liquid Fuels from Coal: Prospects and Policy Issues Interfacial Phenomena in Coal Technology (Surfactant Science) Struggling for Air: Power Plants and the "War on Coal"

[Dmca](#)