



Timothy Egan (1954 -)

Timothy Egan worked for 18 years as a writer for *The New York Times*, first as the Pacific Northwest correspondent, then as a national enterprise reporter. In 2006, Mr. Egan won the National Book Award for his history of people who lived through the Dust Bowl, *The Worst Hard Time*. In 2001, he won the Pulitzer Prize as part of a team of reporters who wrote the series *How Race Is Lived in America*. Mr. Egan is the author of five books, including *The Good Rain: Across Time and Terrain in the Pacific Northwest*, and *Lasso the Wind, Away to the New West*. He lives in Seattle.

To write the nonfiction book, *The Worst Hard Time: the Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl*, Egan began collecting oral histories from survivors in 2002, traveling the back roads and visiting family farms. He profiles many of the survivors and their families and recounts those difficult times also written about by John Steinbeck in *The Grapes of Wrath*. However, unlike Steinbeck, who wrote about those who fled to California and other places, Egan focuses on the farmers and families who hunkered down and weathered the drought. Kathleen Burke, writing in the *Smithsonian*, noted: "In his magisterial history of the region that came to be known as the Dust Bowl ... Egan evokes a portrait of an all but forgotten land." In a *Washington Monthly* review, Andrew R. Graybill wrote: "Considering Egan's expertise as an environmental writer, it comes as no surprise that—in addition to his human cast—he highlights the natural world as a critical actor in the story." Graybill added: "In Egan's capable hands, swirling storms of topsoil become memorable characters--menacing, unpredictable, and relentless."

Writings:

(Author of text) *Seattle*, photography by Charles Krebs, Graphic Arts Center (Portland, OR), 1986.

The Good Rain: Across Time and Terrain in the Pacific Northwest, Knopf (New York, NY), 1990.
Breaking Blue, Knopf (New York, NY), 1992.

Lasso the Wind: Away to the New West, Knopf (New York, NY), 1998.

The Winemaker's Daughter (novel), Knopf (New York, NY), 2004.

(Author of text) *Wild Seattle: A Celebration of the Natural Areas in and around the City*, Sierra Club Books (San Francisco, CA), 2004.

The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl, Houghton Mifflin (Boston, MA), 2006.

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