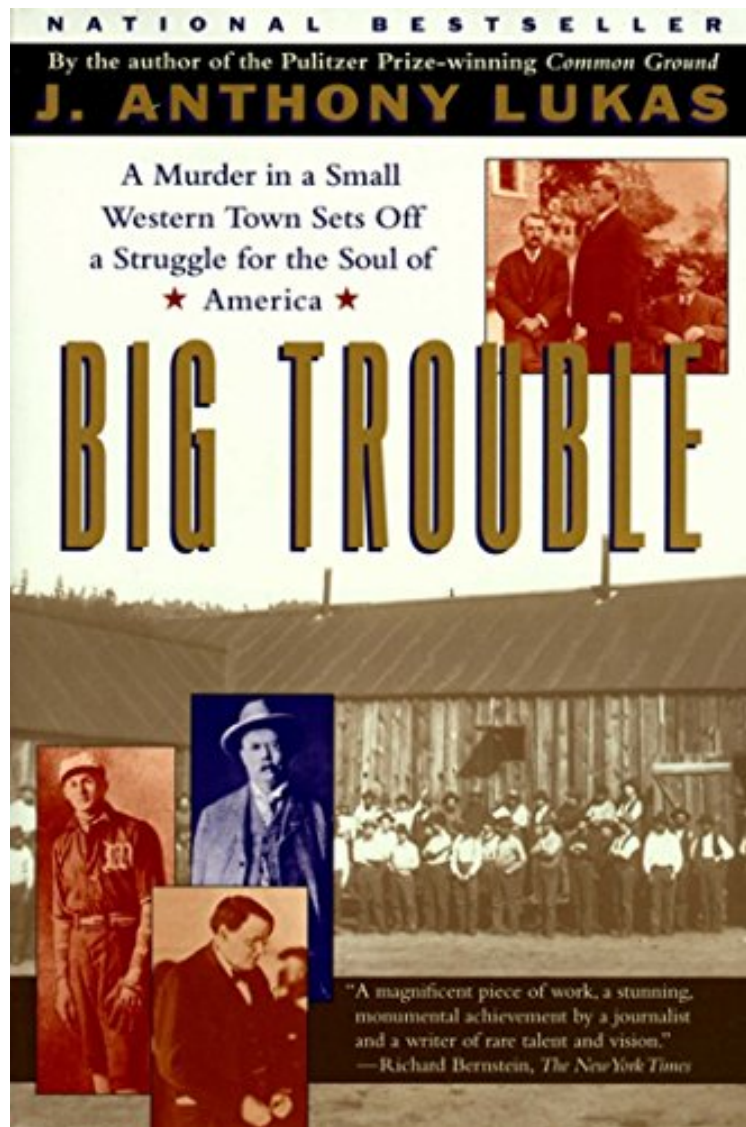


(Read free ebook) Big Trouble: A Murder in a Small Western Town Sets Off a Strugg (English Edition)

Big Trouble: A Murder in a Small Western Town Sets Off a Strugg (English Edition)

Von J. Anthony Lukas
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Von J. Anthony Lukas : Big Trouble: A Murder in a Small Western Town Sets Off a Strugg (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Big Trouble: A Murder in a Small Western Town Sets Off a Strugg (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Book That Killed The Author, An American HerodotusVon Ein KundeBig Trouble is a thick, digressive read that requires

physical and mental stamina. For the experienced reader only. For the first 100 pages, the digressions into every day life in 19th century America seem a maddening distraction, but then the reader begins to think and see the book in terms of the period it describes. What nobler achievement for an historian? Ostensibly the book is an account of the assassination of a former Idaho governor by the Western Federation of Miners and the labor leaders capture and subsequent trial in Boise. While it is a revealing labor history of the west at the turn of the last century, it also explores personal ambition, bomb making, capsule biographies of everyone involved from Alan Pinkerton to Clarence Darrow, ethnic newspapers in New York, the role of fraternal organizations in settling the west, the poetry of Edgar Lee Masters (law partner to Darrow), widespread corruption caused by the bloody labor-capital wars, and much more. As another reviewer pointed out, *Big Trouble* is a book begging to be hyper-texted. Although the book is flawed in some ways it is an education in the best sense and you will miss a truly great achievement in passing it by. After finishing *Big Trouble* the reader is left to wonder what impossible literary standard Lukas had in mind when he killed himself only hours after giving the manuscript to his publisher.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Interesting But Lacks Focus

Von R. Albin

The stated goal of this sprawling book is to explore class conflict in America. In a previous book, Lukas found class and racial distinctions to be so tightly intertwined that teasing out the effects of class was difficult. Lukas turned to Progressive Era America, a period of naked class conflict, to explore this theme. To organize his book he uses the trial of several labor leaders for the murder of an ex-governor of Idaho, the first of several 'trials of the century', as the unifying narrative element. Unfortunately, this device is not employed successfully. The trial is described in great detail with many, many digressions along the way. While individually interesting, these digressions tend to overwhelm the main narrative and obscure the central themes of the book. I suspect that Lukas became interested in providing a panoramic view of Progressive Era America, at considerable cost to analysis of the ostensible central themes of the book. Lukas did a remarkable amount of research, and cites an array of primary sources. Unfortunately, he doesn't grapple explicitly with the issues of class and why individuals chose their particular sides in the class conflicts of the day. This book would have benefited from vigorous editing and much more analysis. Lukas clearly read but did not apparently assimilate the extensive secondary literature on the Progressive Era. This is a pity because much of this literature deals insightfully with the very questions that apparently prompted him to pursue this topic. This is an unusual situation where the audience would have been served better by less use of primary sources and greater reliance on existing scholarship.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A vivid historical account: exhaustive and fulfilling

Von Ein Kunde

Lucas was an obsessive journalist who wanted ALL the facts to paint a picture that resounds in the envisionment of the reader. There is emotion, breath, hunger, and passion in his work, *BIG TROUBLE*. Here, a cast of characters become involved in anarchism, greed, adultery, manipulation, baseball, the movies, politics, and power to show how people are truly involved in a real human soap opera. Lukas makes us feel the harshness of the winters, the dust of the western road, and the remoteness of the western U.S. in 1906. But he also shows how this western landscape was changed forever by the money brokers of the East, the political maneuverings of Washington, and the revolutionaries from the Midwest. Combine that with a highly charged, sensational trial that is, perhaps, only surpassed by O.J. Simpson, Sacco-Vanzetti, Leopold/Loeb, or the Scopes Trial, Lucas created a masterpiece. Note that Clarence Darrow, at the heart of this trial, was also involved in two of the other most celebrated cases in U.S. history. Here, he, along with all of the other lawyers show their true colors in seeking victory rather than the truth. My only regret was that I only learned of Lucas only after he became so desperate that he ended his own life: I wish that I would have had the chance to discuss his methods, motives, and mania -- some of which I share. Lucas was a remarkable writer who turned mere history into a life that the reader can relive. His talent for detail, both in facts as well as illumination, provides for fascinating reading. If you live in the past, you will find relief from our modern life. If you think that the past is irrelevant, read *BIG TROUBLE* to find how little we have evolved in 100 years.

Kurzbeschreibung Hailed as "toweringly important" (Baltimore Sun), "a work of scrupulous and significant reportage" (E. L. Doctorow), and "an unforgettable historical drama" (Chicago Sun-Times), *Big Trouble* brings to life the astonishing case that ultimately engaged President Theodore Roosevelt, Supreme Court justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, and the politics and passions of an entire nation at century's turn. After Idaho's former governor is blown up by a bomb at his garden gate at Christmastime 1905, America's most celebrated detective, Pinkerton James McParland, takes over the investigation. His daringly executed plan to kidnap the radical union leader "Big Bill" Haywood from Colorado to stand trial in Idaho sets the stage for a memorable courtroom confrontation between the flamboyant prosecutor, progressive senator William Borah, and the young defender of the dispossessed, Clarence Darrow. *Big Trouble* captures the tumultuous first decade of the twentieth century, when capital and labor, particularly in the raw, acquisitive West, were pitted against each other in something close to class war. Lukas paints a vivid portrait of a time and place in which actress Ethel Barrymore, baseball phenom Walter Johnson, and editor William Allen White jostled with railroad magnate E. H. Harriman, socialist Eugene V. Debs, gunslinger Charlie Siringo, and

Operative 21, the intrepid Pinkerton agent who infiltrated Darrow's defense team. This is a grand narrative of the United States as it charged, full of hope and trepidation, into the twentieth century. In June 1997, just months before publication of his latest book, *Big Trouble*, Pulitzer-winning journalist J. Anthony Lukas killed himself. He was 64 and, according to many accounts, had finally surrendered to a lifelong despair over what he saw as his inability to meet his own exceedingly high literary standards. Yet in reading *Big Trouble*, a gripping account of murder and politics in turn-of-the-century Idaho, one can't help but think that Lukas was far too hard on himself. His last work is a well-told tale of the struggle between labor and capitalists in the West at a time when entire state legislatures were effectively owned by corporate interests and America teetered on the brink of open class warfare. The story begins with the 1905 assassination of Frank Steunenberg, an ex-governor of Idaho. His murder was rumored to be the work of vengeful labor bosses, and Pinkerton detective James McParland tracked Wobbly organizer Big Bill Haywood all the way to Colorado to bring him back to stand trial, where he and two other men were defended by a team of lawyers that included Clarence Darrow. During the writing of *Common Ground*, his account of Boston's painful process of school desegregation in the 1970s, Lukas became intrigued by what he called race's "twin issue": class. "The more I delved into Boston's crisis," he writes in the foreword to *Big Trouble*, "the more I found the conundrums of race and class inextricably intertwined." Class simply wasn't as overt an issue as race in contemporary society. What Lukas needed was a time and place where class and class struggle were open and visible. He found it in Idaho in 1905, a time of change and uncertainty, when any notion of a large American middle class was still a distant dream. In order to make this era comprehensible to modern readers, Lukas has gone great lengths in *Big Trouble* to re-create the entire social, political, and economic context of the murder trial. Here are the histories not simply of mining, railroads, and unions, but of detectives, "modern" journalism, baseball, land speculation, and frontier-town boosterism. In its capacity to translate historical facts into an engrossing, insightful read, *Big Trouble* stands as a final testament to Lukas's well-deserved reputation as a top reporter of America's growing pains. *Pressestimmen* Frank Davies *The Miami Herald* Like a rambunctious "Ragtime" that captures the brashness and bluster of the United States at the turn of the century, "Big Trouble" spills over with outsize characters, political and social clashes on a grand scale, and a celebrity murder trial that divides the nation. It's also a bracing portrait of the real, unromantic West.