



Mountain Justice: Homegrown Resistance to Mountaintop Removal, for the Future of Us All

Tricia Shapiro

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"Shapiro is one of the few writers on this subject that actually understands the strategy, the tactics, and the internal politics of a dynamic and growing movement. This is environmental journalism at it best."—Mike Roselle, Earth First! founder and author of Tree Spiker

Mountaintop removal (MTR) does exactly what it says: a mountaintop is stripped of trees, blown to bits with explosives, then pushed aside by giant equipment—all to expose a layer of coal to be mined. Hundreds of thousands of acres of ancient forested mountains have been "removed" this way and will never again support the biologically rich and diverse forest and stream communities that evolved there over millions of years—all to support our flawed national energy policy.

Mountain Justice tells a terrific set of firsthand stories about living with MTR and offers on-the-scene—and behind-the-scenes—reporting of what people are doing to try to stop it. Tricia Shapiro lets the victims of mountaintop removal and their allies tell their own stories, allowing moments of quiet dignity and righteous indignation to share center stage. Includes coverage of the sharp escalation of anti-MTR civil disobedience, with more than 130 arrests in West Virginia alone during the first year of the Obama administration.

Tricia Shapiro has been closely following and writing about efforts to end large-scale strip mining for coal in Appalachia since 2004. She now lives on a remote mountain homestead in western North Carolina, near the Tennessee border.



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