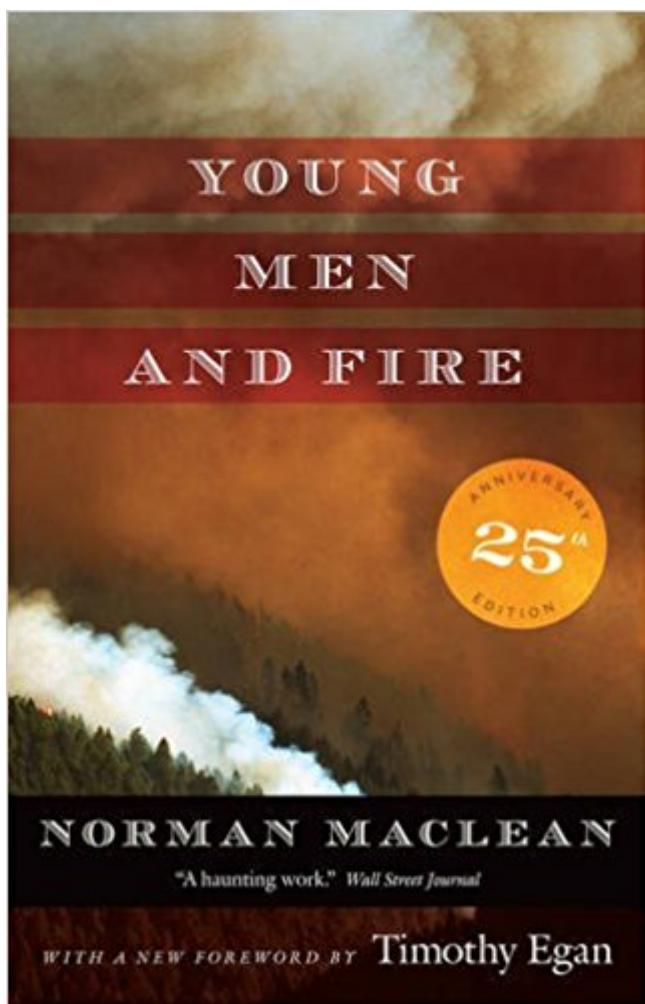


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# Young Men And Fire: Twenty-fifth Anniversary Edition



## Synopsis

A devastating and lyrical work of nonfiction, *Young Men and Fire* describes the events of August 5, 1949, when a crew of fifteen of the US Forest Service's elite airborne firefighters, the Smokejumpers, stepped into the sky above a remote forest fire in the Montana wilderness. Two hours after their jump, all but three of the men were dead or mortally burned. Haunted by these deaths for forty years, Norman Maclean puts together the scattered pieces of the Mann Gulch tragedy in *Young Men and Fire*, which won the National Book Critics Circle Award. Alongside Maclean's now-canonical *A River Runs through It* and *Other Stories*, *Young Men and Fire* is recognized today as a classic of the American West. This twenty-fifth anniversary edition of Maclean's later triumph—the last book he would write—includes a powerful new foreword by Timothy Egan, author of *The Big Burn* and *The Worst Hard Time*. As moving and profound as when it was first published, *Young Men and Fire* honors the literary legacy of a man who gave voice to an essential corner of the American soul.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“A taut, terrifying yet poetic account. . . . Maclean . . . is unsparing in his prose and dogged in his reporting, piecing together the elements that led to more than a dozen men suffocating and burning to death. The story, which I've read at least four times now, is agonizing to read, making the hairs on my arms stand on end. It is also one of the most pleasurable experiences I've had.” (Anna Holmes New York Times Book Review)

magnificent drama of writing, a tragedy that pays tribute to the dead and offers rescue to the living. . . . Maclean’s search for the truth, which becomes an exploration of his own mortality, is more compelling even than his journey into the heart of the fire. . . . A classic. (New York Times Book Review, Editor’s Choice as one of the Best Books of 1992) “Beautiful. . . . A dark American idyll of which the language can be proud. (Robert M. Adams New York Review of Books) “Maclean is always with the brave young dead. . . . They could not have found a storyteller with a better claim to represent their honor. . . . A great book. (James R. Kincaid New York Times Book Review) “A treasure: part detective story, part western, part tragedy, part elegy and wholly eloquent ghost story in which the dead and the living join ranks cheerfully, if sometimes eerily, in a search for truth and the rest it brings. (Joseph Coates Chicago Tribune) “Young Men and Fire is redolent of Melville. Just as the reader of Moby-Dick comes to comprehend the monstrous entirety of the great white whale, so the reader of Young Men and Fire goes into the heart of the great red fire and comes out thoroughly informed. Don’t hesitate to take the plunge. (Dennis Drabelle Washington Post) “Young Men and Fire is a somber and poetic retelling of a tragic event. It is the pinnacle of smokejumping literature and a classic work of twentieth-century nonfiction. (John Holkeboer Wall Street Journal) “A haunting work. (Joseph Rago Wall Street Journal) “An astonishing book. In compelling language, both homely and elegant, Young Men and Fire miraculously combines a fascinating primer on fires and firefighting, a powerful, breathtakingly real reconstruction of a tragedy, and a meditation on writing, grief, and human character. . . . Maclean’s last book will stir your heart and haunt your memory. (Timothy Foote USA Today) “The bravery of an unsung profession; this is a tale of natural disaster, adventure, and male camaraderie. (Gear Patrol) “Before Norman Maclean was a writer and professor, he fought fires for the Forest Service. When he was a teenager, he nearly died in a Montana wildfire. ‘It came so close it sounded as if it were cracking bones, and mine were the only bones around,’ he writes. It’s through that memory of terror, thirst, and exhaustion that Maclean begins his book *Young Men and Fire*. Thirteen smokejumpers—firefighters who parachute into the wilderness—died in the 1949 Mann Gulch fire. With an almost obsessive attention to detail, Maclean reconstructs their story using the skill and sensitivity he honed as a novelist.” (Daniel A. Gross Longreads)

Norman Maclean (1902–90), woodsman, scholar, teacher, and storyteller, grew up in and around Missoula, Montana, and worked for many years in logging camps and for the United States

Forest Service before beginning his academic career. He was the William Rainey Harper Professor of English at the University of Chicago until 1973.

Great book! Mr. Maclean tells you everything you could possibly want to know about the 1949 Mann Gulch Fire! How it started, why it blew up, who did what and when and why! It is a great book that I am still reading and having trouble putting down!

Artful description of fire, life, tragedy, and making sense of it all. Useful for those that will create policy to understand how it will impact those it serves.

very interesting book .

I submitted a 5-star review some years ago, but it is not shown. This book has it all: Realism, danger, problem-solving, human tragedy, all expertly written by a knowledgeable person.

Great little business. Lovely, friendly follow-up. Awesome bread product. Go get yourself one. for a host , as the price. good product with high quality. tell a lot of the product .

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