

(Download) Holding the Line: Women in the Great Arizona Mine Strike of 1983

Holding the Line: Women in the Great Arizona Mine Strike of 1983

Barbara Kingsolver

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Barbara Kingsolver : Holding the Line: Women in the Great Arizona Mine Strike of 1983 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Holding the Line: Women in the Great Arizona Mine Strike of 1983:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Surprised About the Union HistoryBy CustomerThe facts were illuminating and the history was very interesting. For that information, I think people should read this book. I thought the union battles had been fought in the late 1800's and early 1900's. This took place in 1983. However, I found it to be repetitive and there were too many people involved to keep their experiences clear.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Holding the Line deserves a better e-book editBy World TravelerHolding the Line: Women in the Great Arizona Mine Strike of 1983 by Barbara Kingsolver is too important a piece of American labor history to be reproduced with glaring typographical errors on almost every page. It looks as if the print version was digitalized by a scanner with the hiccups and sometimes it is hard to tell just how a sentence should read. Kingsolver is a first-rate writer and the story she tells is compelling. Especially at a time when labor unions are losing their membership and their voice to protect the health and safety and the livelihood of U.S. workers, this story deserves a better treatment.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. So-so account of sad eventBy LFirst of all the Kindle version is ridiculously poorly edited. I've never seen such a poor product put to market honestly.The account in the story had some redeeming elements in it, especially the aspects of how tough the women in the story were. However it was very union-biased and didn't quit tell a true account of both sides. Had it been more balanced I might have given it 3 stars.

Holding the Line, Barbara Kingsolver's first non-fiction book, is the story of women's lives transformed by an a signal event. Set in the small mining towns of Arizona, it is part oral history and part social criticism, exploring the process of empowerment which occurs when people work together as a community. Like Kingsolver's award-winning novels, Holding the Line is a beautifully written book grounded on the strength of its characters. Hundreds of families held the line in the 1983 strike against Phelps Dodge Copper in Arizona. After more than a year the strikers lost their union certification, but the battle permanently altered the social order in these small, predominantly Hispanic mining towns. At the time the strike began, many women said they couldn't leave the house without their husband's permission. Yet, when injunctions barred union men from picketing, their wives and daughters turned out for the daily picket lines. When the strike dragged on and men left to seek jobs elsewhere, women continued to picket, organize support, and defend their rights even when the towns were occupied by the National Guard. "Nothing can ever be the same as it was before," said Diane McCormick of the Morenci Miners Women's Auxiliary. "Look at us. At the beginning of this strike, we were just a bunch of ladies."

From Publishers Weekly Several mining towns have grown up around the rich Morenci copper pit in southern Arizona, each ruled to a certain extent by the Phelps Dodge Copper Corporation. In 1983, the company tried to freeze wages and deny the miners cost-of-living protection. The resulting strike lasted a long and miserable 18 months; management ultimately won its bid to have the union decertified but its business was damaged in the process, and the strikers took some comfort in a series of legal victories that, suggesting a discriminatory pattern of law enforcement, kept the labor activists out of jail. Journalist and novelist Kingsolver (The Bean Trees) has written a stirring partisan account of the role the areas women played in holding the strike and in keeping families and communities together, despite the strikes failure. The women tell remarkable stories of their lives and actions, displaying the strength that led one corporate official to remark, "If we could just get rid of these broads, wed have it made." This book pays powerful tribute to their resolve and passion for economic justice. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Library Journal In 1983, after the Phelps Dodge Copper Corporation demanded an unprecedented amount of pay and benefits cuts, a union consortium, consisting of mostly Hispanic women, held a strike in four small Arizona mining towns. The women's lives were transformed. Their culture had confined them to limited roles; they now became leaders, strategists, spokespersons, and morale-boosters. The first-person narratives of these women dominate this account of the 18-month strike, written by novelist Kingsolver, author of The Bean Trees (LJ 2/1/88) and Homeland and Other Stories (LJ 5/15/89). While this format is interesting, fewer quotations and additional industry and strike background would have made the account more effective. Despite these reservations, the book will interest readers of labor studies, women's studies, and community/ethnic studies.- Frieda Shoenberg Rozen, Pennsylvania State Univ., University Park Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. "The women tell remarkable stories of their lives and actions. . . . This book pays powerful tribute to their resolve and passion for economic justice." Publishers Weekly "Like Kingsolver's fiction, Holding the Line is a beautifully written book grounded on the strength of its characters only this time the characters are real." Journal of the Southwest "Holding the Line is both clear and emotional, the story of women who try to get a fair shake in their workplace and realize they can stop at nothing short of control over their entire lives. This is a report from the trenches of where the political meets the personal." John Sayles