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Hear That Lonesome Whistle Blow: The Epic Story of the Transcontinental Railroads

Dee Brown

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A fascinating and atmospheric history of the transcontinental railroad—the nineteenth century's greatest and most relentless feat of national expansion

Hear that Lonesome Whistle Blow unspools the history of the beginnings of the American railroad system. By the mid-nineteenth century, settlers in Missouri and California were separated by a vast landscape that dwarfed and isolated them, conquerable only by "the demonic power of the Iron Horse and its bands of iron track." Although the building of the great railroad is commonly known as a story of romance, adventure, and progress, it also has a dark side, as profiteers decimated American Indian tribes, exploited workers, and destroyed ecosystems. Despite this, by the turn of the twentieth century, five major railroads would span the continent.

This account vividly illustrates the railroad builders' breathtaking skill, ambition, and ingenuity. . Brown compellingly tells a high-stakes tale, an exhilarating history that still holds lessons for today.

This ebook features an illustrated biography of Dee Brown including rare photos from the author's personal collection.

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