

Delve Deeper into "Libby, Montana"

A film by Drury Gunn Carr and Doug Hawes-Davis

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Jill Munson of the Chouteau County Library in partnership with the American Library Association, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary "Libby, Montana" that premieres on August 28th, 2007 at 10 PM (check local listings at www.pbs.org/pov/).

Nestled below the rugged peaks of the Northern Rockies in Montana — as iconic a representation of America's "purple mountain majesties" as one can find — lies the worst case of community-wide exposure to a toxic substance in U.S. history. In the small town of Libby, many hundreds of people are sick or have already died from asbestos exposure. "Libby, Montana" takes a long working day's journey into a blue-collar community, and finds a different reality — one where the American Dream exacts a terrible price

ADULT NONFICTION

Bartrip, Peter. *Beyond The Factory Gates: Asbestos and Health in 20th Century America*. London: Continuum International Publishing Group, 2006. Discusses the long term effects of asbestos poisoning on both personal health and the environment.

Bowker, Michael. *Fatal Deception: The Terrifying True Story of How Asbestos is Killing America*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2003. Current history of how asbestos is affecting communities, companies and the court system.

Carroll, Stephen J. *Asbestos Litigation: Costs and Compensation*. Santa Monica, CA: Rand Corporation, 2005. This study is a comprehensive look at the dimensions of asbestos litigation today. Carroll walks the reader through the courts and the costs of this controversial subject.

Harr, Jonathan. *A Civil Action*. New York: Random House, Inc., 1995. An examination of the trial involving citizens of Woburn, Massachusetts, and companies W.R. Grace and Beatrice Foods, who contaminated the town's water with industrial solvent, resulting in several deaths.

Lapierre, Dominique and Javier Moro. *Five Past Midnight in Bhopal: The Epic Story of the World's Deadliest Industrial Disaster*. New York: Grand Central Publishing, 2002. An account of the 1984 Union Carbide toxic gas leak in Bhopal, India, that poisoned more than 500,000 residents and caused the deaths of many others.

Peacock, Andrea. *Libby, Montana: Asbestos and the Deadly Silence of an American Corporation*. Boulder, CO: Johnson Books, 2003. Peacock exposes W.R. Grace — the company responsible for the community poisoning of Libby, Montana.

Schneider, Andrew. *An Air That Kills: How Asbestos Poisoning of Libby, Montana Uncovered a National Scandal*. New York: G. P. Putnam, 2004. Schneider, a correspondent for the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, reveals how he uncovered the ugly truth to the citizens of Libby, Montana.

Toole, K. Ross. *Montana: An Uncommon Land*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1959. Although written nearly fifty years ago, Toole's explanation of business and mining interests in Montana — and their deception — still applies today.

W.R. Grace & Co. "Statement from W.R. Grace & Co. Regarding Montana Indictment." www.grace.com/About/EHS/Libby/CompanyStatement.aspx

ADULT FICTION

Doig, Ivan. *Bucking the Sun*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1996. Scotch-descended Montanans struggle with nature, physical labor, politics and the building of Fort Peck Dam.

Sinclair, Upton. *The Jungle*. Tuscon, AZ: See Sharp Press, 1906. (reissue in its entirety 2003). The original muckraking novel, reflecting the worker at the mercy of the large meatpacking giants and their politics.

NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Lewis, Barbara. *The Kid's Guide to Social Action*. Minneapolis, MN: Free Spirit Publishing, 1998. Simple-to-follow guide for pre-teens and teens.

Taylor, Ron. *Facts on Radon and Asbestos*. New York: Franklin Watts Publishing, 1990. Informative book for children and adults.

FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES

"The China Syndrome." A film by James Bridges. Columbia TriStar, 1999. (121 min.) A television news reporter and a cameraman uncover a startling incident while investigating a nuclear power plant. www.amazon.com

"A Civil Action." A film by Steven Zaillian. Walt Disney Video, 1999. (115 min.) Film based on Jonathan's Harr's account of Woburn, Massachusetts and the townspeople's case against W.R. Grace and Beatrice Foods. www.amazon.com

"Erin Brockovich." A film by Steven Soderbergh. Universal Studios, 2000. (132 min.) Showcases the story of Erin Brockovich, secretary-turned-investigator of Hinkley, California's contaminated water supply. www.amazon.com

"P.O.V.: Fenceline." A film by Siawomir Grunberg. Log TV, 2002. (52 min.) Explores the environmental struggle between Shell Oil Company and the people of Norco, LA, juxtaposing misconceptions about the role of industry in polluting the environment against scientific facts. www.logtv.com

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"Matewan." A film by John Sayles. Lion's Gate, 1987. (142 min.) Coal miner's struggle to form a labor union against a corrupt mining operation.
www.amazon.com

"Norma Rae." A film by Martin Ritter. MGM, 1979. (117 min.) Naive textile worker begins to stand up for her rights against the company that wants to crush her rebellion.
www.amazon.com

"Silkwood." A film by Mike Nichols. MGM, 1983. (131 min.) Fact-based drama about employee-turned-activist Karen Silkwood and her battle to expose the wrongdoings of her employer, Kerr-McGee's Cimarron Nuclear Plant.
www.amazon.com