



On the Fireline: Living and Dying with Wildland Firefighters (Fieldwork Encounters and Discoveries)

Matthew Desmond

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In this rugged account of a rugged profession, Matthew Desmond explores the heart and soul of the wildland firefighter. Having joined a firecrew in Northern Arizona as a young man, Desmond relates his experiences with intimate knowledge and native ease, adroitly balancing emotion with analysis and action with insight. *On the Fireline* shows that these firefighters aren't the adrenaline junkies or romantic heroes as they're so often portrayed.

An immersion into a dangerous world, *On the Fireline* is also a sophisticated analysis of a high-risk profession—and a captivating read.

“Gripping . . . a masterful account of how young men are able to face down wildfire, and why they volunteer for such an enterprise in the first place.”—David Grazian, *Sociological Forum*

“Along with the risks and sorrow, Desmond also presents the humor and camaraderie of ordinary men performing extraordinary tasks. . . . A good complement to Norman Maclean's *Young Men and Fire*. Recommended.”—*Library Journal*

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