



# A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities That Arise in Disaster

By Rebecca Solnit

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From the author of *Men Explain Things to Me* – “A landmark book that gives impassioned challenge to the social meaning of disasters” (*The New York Times Book Review*)

**"The freshest, deepest, most optimistic account of human nature I've come across in years."**

**-Bill McKibben**

**Chosen as a Best Book of the Year by *the New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *New Yorker*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Washington Post*, and *Chicago Tribune***

The most startling thing about disasters, according to award-winning author Rebecca Solnit, is not merely that so many people rise to the occasion, but that they do so with joy. That joy reveals an ordinarily unmet yearning for community, purposefulness, and meaningful work that disaster often provides. *A Paradise Built in Hell* is an investigation of the moments of altruism, resourcefulness, and generosity that arise amid disaster's grief and disruption and considers their implications for everyday life. It points to a new vision of what society could become—one that is less authoritarian and fearful, more collaborative and local.

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## **A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities That Arise in Disaster** By Rebecca Solnit **Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Natural and man-made disasters can be utopias that showcase human solidarity and point the way to a freer society, according to this stimulating contrarian study. Solnit (*River of Shadows*) reproves civil defense planners, media alarmists and Hollywood directors who insist that disasters produce terrified mobs prone to looting, murder and cannibalism unless controlled by armed force and government expertise. Surveying disasters from the 1906 San Francisco earthquake to 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina, she shows that the typical response to calamity is spontaneous altruism, self-organization and mutual aid, with neighbors and strangers calmly rescuing, feeding and housing each other. Indeed, the main problem in such emergencies, she contends, is the elite panic of officials who clamp down with National Guardsmen and stifling regulations. Solnit falters when she generalizes her populist brief into an anarchist critique of everyday society that lapses into fuzzy what-ifs and uplifting volunteer testimonials. Still, this vividly written, cogently argued book makes a compelling—and timely—case for the ability of ordinary people to collectively surmount the direst of challenges. (*Sept.*)

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### Review

"Thought-provoking . . . captivating and compelling . . . there's a hopeful, optimistic, even contagious quality to this superb book."

--*Los Angeles Times*

"In her far-reaching and large-spirited new book, Solnit argues that disasters are opportunities as well as oppressions, each one a summons to rediscover the powerful engagement and joy of genuine altruism, civic life, grassroots community, and meaningful work."

--*San Francisco Chronicle*

"Stirring . . . fascinating . . . presents a withering critique of modern capitalist society by examining five catastrophes . . . Her account of these events are so stirring that her book is worth reading for its storytelling alone. . . . [An] exciting and important contribution to our understanding of ourselves."

--*The Washington Post*

### About the Author

Rebecca Solnit is the author of numerous books, including *Hope in the Dark*, *River of Shadows: Eadweard Muybridge and the Technological Wild West*, *Wanderlust: A History of Walking*, and *As Eve Said to the Serpent: On Landscape, Gender, and Art*, which was nominated for the National Book Critics Circle Award in Criticism. In 2003, she received the prestigious Lannan Literary Award.

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#### Archie Moriarty:

This book untitled A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities That Arise in Disaster to be one of several books that will best seller in this year, honestly, that is because when you read this publication you

can get a lot of benefit upon it. You will easily to buy this particular book in the book shop or you can order it by means of online. The publisher of this book sells the e-book too. It makes you easier to read this book, as you can read this book in your Smart phone. So there is no reason for your requirements to past this guide from your list.

**Gene Kirkland:**

Precisely why? Because this A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities That Arise in Disaster is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will surprise you with the secret this inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who have write the book in such wonderful way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book include such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I have been you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

**Alberta Jones:**

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