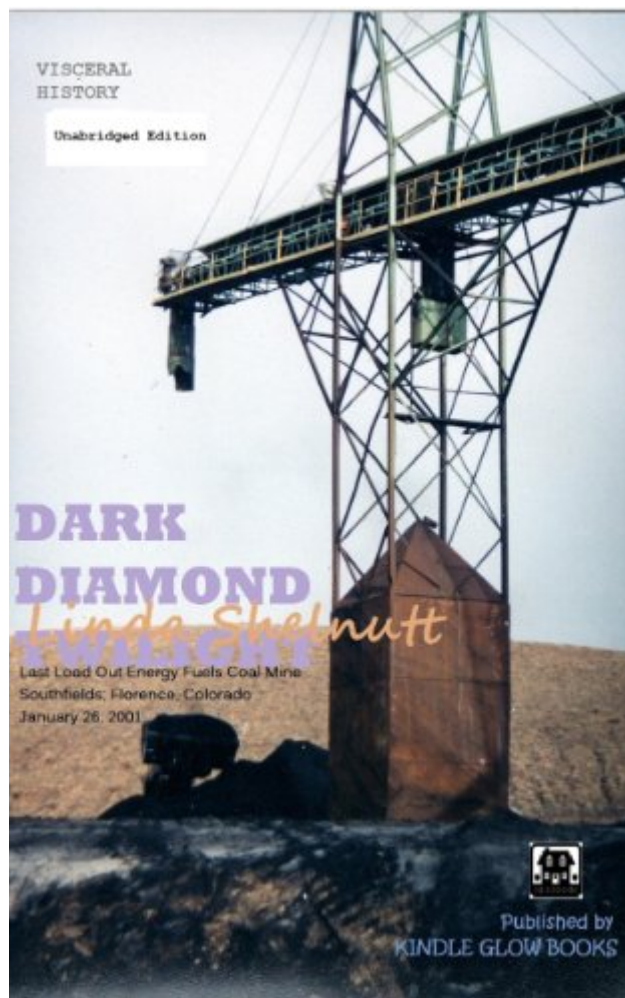




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# DARK DIAMOND TWILIGHT: Last Coal Load Out From Energy Fuels (Short True Account W/Photos)



## Synopsis

DARK DIAMOND TWILIGHT dramatizes how to let go with simple dedicated dignity, with heart-healing easy warmth among cohorts. A short true account with photo essay, this work features a group of never say quit miners who wouldn't give up the ghost until the spirit rose up into the sky, or in this case until the spirit was drifted down with ebony dust into the beds of a prime selection of dump trucks given the honor of diminishing coal piles to dark streaks on the ground, later to be reclaimed into prairie grass. The essence of this history was lifted from the writer [wife of one of the final employees] being on site at the Energy Fuels Mine in Florence, Colorado the day during which the last load of coal was trucked off the property in preparation for the operation shut down. An idle period would allow a pause for hope and possibility prior to cutting apart and tearing down the infrastructure and hauling it off in large pieces for scrap. [That event is focused in The Last Lunch Box.] From the Author: Being surrounded by the indomitable spirit of the small crew involved in the last load out was an honor I'll cherish until I give up the ghost... probably well beyond that. The scenes of loading the final coal collection would be taken home that evening by all in attendance, along with those involved who could not be in attendance. The experience of having been there for this mine's last day of constructive, profit oriented operations has given a sense of peace, being on site to witness a job more than well done. That memory can set a healthy attitude for those times each of us endures more than once, when a heart needs to lie heavy for a while, giving time for a day of passage to settle into a healing soul. In this case the "day" was a 160 year era....\*Linda Shelnutt's Original 8 VISCERAL HISTORIES\* A Mining Series based around Florence, Colorado: 1. The Price of Black Diamonds 2. I Worked 3. Coal Dust in Their Hands 4. Dark Diamond Twilight 5. The Last Lunch Box 6. Coal & Coca-Cola 7. We Work All Our Lives and What Do We Get? 8. This is Someone's Loved One: An Undertaker's View\* All eight on the above list are available on KINDLE with photo accompaniment. A hyperlinked list to the unabridged editions of these stories is provided in the concluding pages of this DARK DIAMOND TWILIGHT offering. And, since this is the original unabridged edition updated 2015, all appendix materials have been included: 1. Details on the Visceral History Code and Definition 2. Pictures of the book covers of the original 8 VH offerings 3. Reviews from the Shorts and Kindle unabridged edition of Dark Diamond Twilight 4. Pictures of book covers of a Photojournalism Walkabout series of books which feature niceties available in our complex culture which would not have been possible without the coal mining industry and the history of its labors, integrity, and ingenuity 5. A complete, categorized, hyperlinked list of full length books available from the author. For convenience of those who might prefer a pared down presentation of this story, as of March 2013, an abridged edition was made

available without the above listed 5 appendices. See Shelnutt's Author page for a hyperlinked list of available editions. Winter editions of DARK DIAMOND TWILIGHT, and others of these VH offerings are sometimes offered free from one to five days around the holidays to honor the 160 year era of mining in Fremont County Colorado, and to remind that in days long gone receiving a LUMP OF COAL in a Christmas stocking was a cherished blessing for warmth and prosperity during cold hard times.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

In her story "Dark Diamond Twilight" Miss Shelnutt gives us a look at how working men relate to their machines. Her husband Tom operates his bob cat loader as if he were on a dance floor made of black diamonds as he scoops up buckets full of coal to load on a bigger machine. What some people would view as a catastrophe due to the loss of their jobs these men see as one more chance to do what they love. The politics of it have them baffled but the joy of working makes it all worth while. Here is the grit that made America great, people working for the joy of it, even if it is the Last

Day. When they clock out tonight it will be over, the coal is still there but the business types don't have the will to get it. That is a shame because the people who have been working there still have the will to do the job. Having worked on many construction operations loading heavy equipment on my trailer to haul to the next job, I can feel the ground shake as the big loader goes by, smell the diesel smoke as the dump trucks take their turn at the loading chute and feel the natural rhythm of the dance. Men and machines working in harmony following the steps of a well choreographed dance as they bring the coal out of the ground process it then load it into the trailers that will haul it to the final destination. The dance is over at this mine for the time being but if the need ever arises there will be people who will once again dance with their machines on the Dark Diamond dance floor. I look forward to another tale of the people who made Colorado what it is, and in so doing helped make America what it is. Miss Shelnutt please keep up the good work, and keep telling their stories so that future generations can know the value of a good days work.

Author John W. Cassell reviews Linda G. Shelnutt's informed and graphic true story of the last day of operation of the Energy Fuels Mine in Fremont County, Colorado. In these days when the mining industry is under attack by the current crop of politicians in Washington, every citizen would be well advised to read what this informed woman has to say about coal and what the impact of the industry's destruction would be. Cassell argues the best way to start is this true and compelling story.

I liked the story. It was brief, heartfelt and gave a full rundown of the mine's last day. Where the story lacks balance is in the pages that follow. The author attempts to initiate a political and social conversation around the closure of the mine and state of local industry. She alludes to it in the story and photos, but doesn't fully commit. It's the perfect platform but misses the opportunity or has failed in her attempt to do so. What's more there are numerous additional pages of lengthy reviews or coverage of her other books. It's a full on advertising catalogue of her work, though it reads like you've missed pages from the story. You can skip all this and stick to the few pages up front.

As stated in the title of this review, other than the section referencing JFK's assassination and one or two descriptive passages I was disappointed in this offering.

As Linda orates this short story with a voice we have never actually heard but create in our minds, I wonder how many others can hear the sorrow of seeing her yesterdays evaporating one by one

as she tries to secure them in the vault of her mind and heart. She somehow joyfully tells us of a sorrowful event in her life (The final breaths of a coal Mine), That to her has become a living creation in her attachment and relationship with it and the workers who kept its heart beating. You get a glimpse of "Now and Back-Then" that will be hard for any reader to ever forget. She patiently tells us "How Dreams Became a Future Reality" and with the Cruel Passage of Time, "Reality returns to just being a Dream of the Past. I can stand in this wonderful ladies place and relive everything she is passing on to me as though I stood beside her when they happened. Set back and enjoy some of yesterday's most wonderful and trying Times. G. Daniel Cole

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