

Praise for **HIDDEN AMERICA**

By
JEANNE MARIE LASKAS

“Jeanne Marie Laskas has spent years finding and listening to the people we can’t do without, but sometimes forget are there. She went into the mines with miners, rode the range with the cowboys, talked with air traffic controllers, and went on the road with truckers. What they told her is at once heart-warming, funny, sad, ironic, and, most of all, insightful. She is a wonderful listener who gives us new and better perspective on what keeps America working. A fine piece of reporting and writing – a ride well worth taking.”

—BOB SCHIEFFER

“Jeanne Marie Laskas is a reporting and writing powerhouse. She doesn’t just interview the people who dig our coal and extract our oil, she goes deep into the mines and tundra with them. She goes to work nationwide to find the hidden soul of America, the people we depend on most but know the least. Along the way, she reminds us that it’s not *what* makes our lives function smoothly, but *who*, how, and at what cost. With beauty, wit, curiosity, and grace, Laskas tells the story of the United States from deep inside the machinery that makes it work. *Hidden America* is essential reading for anyone who’s ever turned on a light, started a car, thrown away trash, flown on a plane, or eaten a vegetable.”

—REBECCA SKLOOT
Author of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

“It’s not a stretch to use the name Studs Terkel in the same sentence with the name Jeanne Marie Laskas. She’s one hell of a journalist, a world-class storyteller who takes us where we may not want to go, then makes us grateful we took the trip. She gives voice to the voiceless and names to the nameless, and it still comes out reading like a novel. *Hidden America* is not just a good read, it’s an important one.”

—LINDA ELLERBEE

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“*Hidden America* is a literary miracle. In effortlessly lucid prose, Jeanne Marie Laskas tells stories that spellbind precisely because they remind us of the center that quietly holds America together. You will fall in love with, want to have a beer with, and maybe shed a tear for, her entire cast of obscure heroes.”

—ROBERT DRAPER

Author of *Do Not Ask What Good We Do* and
Dead Certain: The Presidency of George W. Bush

“Jeanne Marie Laskas has for years taken her readers inside the lives of ordinary people with her intimate, insightful journalism. *Hidden America* is a finely crafted look behind the curtains of everyday life – think *Dirty Jobs* for the literate set.”

—MIKE SAGER

Author of *Wounded Warriors*

HIDDEN AMERICA

by Jeanne Marie Laskas

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Contacts:

Alexis Welby

Director of Publicity

212-366-2940

Alexis.Welby@us.penguin.com

&

Katie McKee

Senior Publicist

412-561-1207

Katie.McKee@us.penguin.com