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whose names  
are unknown

*a novel by*

**Sanora Babb**

*Narrated by Alyssa Bresnahan*

6670720

# Whose Names Are Unknown A Novel

**Clifford Smyth**



## **Whose Names Are Unknown A Novel:**

**Whose Names Are Unknown** Sanora Babb, 2012-11-20 Sanora Babb's long hidden novel *Whose Names Are Unknown* tells of the High Plains farmers who fled drought and dust storms during the Great Depression. Written with empathy for the farmers' plight, this powerful narrative is based upon the author's firsthand experience. Babb submitted the manuscript for this book to Random House for consideration in 1939. Editor Bennett Cerf planned to publish this exceptionally fine novel but when John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* swept the nation, Cerf explained that the market could not support two books on the subject.

**The Nature of California** Sarah D. Wald, 2016-05-02 The California farmlands have long served as a popular symbol of America's natural abundance and endless opportunity. Yet from John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* and Carlos Bulosan's *America Is in the Heart* to Helena Maria Viramontes's *Under the Feet of Jesus*, many novels, plays, movies, and songs have dramatized the brutality and hardships of working in the California fields. Little scholarship has focused on what these cultural productions tell us about who belongs in America and in what ways they are allowed to belong. In *The Nature of California*, Sarah Wald analyzes this legacy and its consequences by examining the paradoxical representations of California farmers and farmworkers from the Dust Bowl migration to present-day movements for food justice and immigrant rights. Analyzing fiction, nonfiction, news coverage, activist literature, memoirs, and more, Wald gives us a new way of thinking through questions of national belonging by probing the relationships among race, labor, and landownership. Bringing together ecocriticism and critical race theory, she pays special attention to marginalized groups, examining how Japanese American journalists, Filipino workers, United Farm Workers members, and contemporary immigrants' rights activists, among others, pushed back against the standard narratives of landownership and citizenship.

**Coalition Literature** Francisco E. Robles, 2025-03-11 In a series of incisive readings, Francisco E. Robles provides a literary history of mid-century US multiethnic literature, tracing the shift from coalitional aesthetics to multiculturalism by focusing on how migrancy and labor politics shape literary innovation. Along the way, Robles shows how writers kept the Popular Front's legacy of coalitional aesthetics alive through literary practices of what he calls speaking with, whereby authors undo their authority as scribes, audiences become participatory interpreters, and texts emerge as places of communal and collaborative work. Beginning with significant unexpected connections between Zora Neale Hurston and Muriel Rukeyser and delving deeply into the work of Sanora Babb, Woody Guthrie, Gwendolyn Brooks, poets of the Memphis Sanitation Strike, Carlos Bulosan, Tom's Rivera, and authors included in *This Bridge Called My Back*, Robles examines texts whose range of experimental strategies deliberately engage figurations of movement, migration, and coalition. The experimentation these works display emerges from the particular methods of speaking with that they contain, whether it's overcoming exclusion by finding new ways of representing migrants through word and sound or in the astonishing ways these authors conceive of migrancy as neither static nor statistical but as a modality that necessitates writerly innovation. The result is a genealogy of coalitional aesthetics as a

significantly important branch of American midcentury multiethnic writing that sustained and indeed extended the Popular Front and its legacies **Riding Like the Wind** Iris Jamahl Dunkle, 2026-02-03 A USA Today Bestseller This absorbing biography written with both affection and admiration shows Babb as one of the most indefatigable characters in American literary history The New Republic This saga of a writer done dirty resurrects the silenced voice of Sanora Babb peerless author of midcentury American literature In 1939 when John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* was published it became an instant bestseller and a prevailing narrative in the nation's collective imagination of the era But it also stopped the publication of another important novel silencing a gifted writer who was more intimately connected to the true experiences of Dust Bowl migrants In *Riding Like the Wind* renowned biographer Iris Jamahl Dunkle revives the groundbreaking voice of Sanora Babb Dunkle follows Babb from her impoverished childhood in eastern Colorado to California There she befriended the era's literati including Ray Bradbury and Ralph Ellison entered into an illegal marriage and was blacklisted by the House Un American Activities Committee It was Babb's field notes and oral histories of migrant farmworkers that Steinbeck relied on to write his novel But this is not merely a saga of literary usurping on her own merits Babb's impact was profound Her life and work feature heavily in Ken Burns's award winning documentary *The Dust Bowl* and inspired Kristin Hannah in her bestseller *The Four Winds* *Riding Like the Wind* reminds us with fresh awareness that the stories we know and who tells them can change the way we remember history **The Literary Digest International Book Review** Clifford Smyth, 1923

**On the Dirty Plate Trail** Sanora Babb, 2009-03-06 Runner up National Council on Public History Book Award 2008 The 1930s exodus of Okies dispossessed by repeated droughts and failed crop prices was a relatively brief interlude in the history of migrant agricultural labor Yet it attracted wide attention through the publication of John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* 1939 and the images of Farm Security Administration photographers such as Dorothea Lange and Arthur Rothstein Ironically their work risked sublimating the subjects real people and actual experience into aesthetic artifacts icons of suffering deprivation and despair Working for the Farm Security Administration in California's migrant labor camps in 1938-39 Sanora Babb a young journalist and short story writer together with her sister Dorothy a gifted amateur photographer entered the intimacy of the dispossessed farmers lives as insiders evidenced in the immediacy and accuracy of their writings and photos Born in Oklahoma and raised on a dryland farm the Babb sisters had unparalleled access to the day by day harsh reality of field labor and family life This book presents a vivid firsthand account of the Dust Bowl refugees the migrant labor camps and the growth of labor activism among Anglo and Mexican farm workers in California's agricultural valleys linked by the Dirty Plate Trail Highway 99 It draws upon the detailed field notes that Sanora Babb wrote while in the camps as well as on published articles and short stories about the migrant workers and an excerpt from her Dust Bowl novel *Whose Names Are Unknown* Like Sanora's writing Dorothy's photos reveal an unmediated personal encounter with the migrants portraying the social and emotional realities of their actual living and working conditions together with their efforts to organize and to seek

temporary recreation An authority in working class literature and history volume editor Douglas Wixson places the Babb sisters work in relevant historical and social political contexts examining their role in reconfiguring the Dust Bowl exodus as a site of memory in the national consciousness Focusing on the material conditions of everyday existence among the Dust Bowl refugees the words and images of these two perceptive young women clearly show that contrary to stereotype the Okies were a widely diverse people including not only Steinbeck s sharecropper Joads but also literate independent farmers who in the democracy of the FSA camps found effective ways to rebuild lives and create communities *The Bookman* ,1926

*Printers' Ink; the ... Magazine of Advertising, Management and Sales* ,1906 American Working-class Literature  
Nicholas Coles,Janet Zandy,2007 American Working Class Literature is an edited collection containing over 300 oieces of literature by about and in the interests of the working class in America Organized in a broadly historical fashion with texts are grouped around key historical and cultural developments in working class life this volume records the literature of the working classes from the early laborers of the 1600 up until the present The Reader's Handbook of Famous Names in Fiction, Allusions, References, Proverbs, Plots, Stories, and Poems Ebenezer Cobham Brewer,1910 **Bulletin of the Authors' League of America** ,1926 **Forthcoming Books** Rose Arny,2003-12 Literature ,1901 The Bookseller ,1914 Official organ of the book trade of the United Kingdom **Bookseller and the Stationery Trades' Journal** ,1914 The Publishers Weekly ,1927 *Western American Literature* ,2005 **The Book Buyer** ,1905 The Literary Digest  
International Book Review ,1926 **Ainslee's Magazine** ,1901

## Reviewing **Whose Names Are Unknown A Novel**: Unlocking the Spellbinding Force of Linguistics

In a fast-paced world fueled by information and interconnectivity, the spellbinding force of linguistics has acquired newfound prominence. Its capacity to evoke emotions, stimulate contemplation, and stimulate metamorphosis is actually astonishing. Within the pages of "**Whose Names Are Unknown A Novel**," an enthralling opus penned by a very acclaimed wordsmith, readers set about an immersive expedition to unravel the intricate significance of language and its indelible imprint on our lives. Throughout this assessment, we shall delve in to the book is central motifs, appraise its distinctive narrative style, and gauge its overarching influence on the minds of its readers.

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### **Whose Names Are Unknown A Novel Introduction**

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