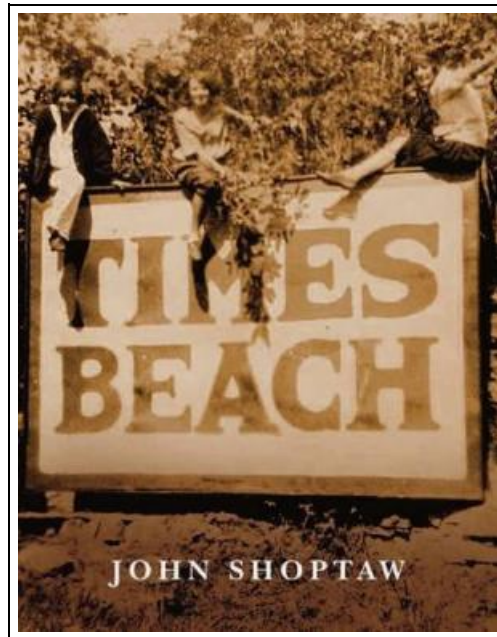


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Reviews

Merely no words to spell out. I am quite late in start reading this one, but better then never. I am happy to explain how this is actually the very best publication we have go through within my personal daily life and can be he best ebook for at any time.
(Althea Christiansen)

TIMES BEACH (NOTRE DAME REVIEW PRIZE)



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University of Notre Dame Press. Paperback. Condition: New. 144 pages. *Times Beach* is a personal, cultural, and environmental history of the Mississippi watershed, a poetic meditation on how the river is ceaselessly shaped by, and shaping, the lives around it. John Shoptaw guides us from the Mississippi's headwaters in Lake Itasca to its delta in the Gulf of Mexico, from its aboriginal mounds to its present-day dams and levees, weaving together episodes in the life of the river: the New Madrid earthquakes of 1811 and 1812, the great floods of 1927 and 2010, the EPA's eradication of the dioxin-laced town of Times Beach with his own memories of growing up in the part of southeast Missouri known as the Bootheel. A pivotal place in *Times Beach* is Shoptaw's home county of New Madrid, a hardwood floodplain of the Lower Mississippi that, over time, has been drained, logged, and farmed. Still muggy and earthquake prone, *Swamp and Misery* is the poet's autobiographical landscape where he picked cotton, was baptized in a drainage ditch, and worked in the lumber mill. It is also the place his education let him escape, delivering him to a life far away from the swampland to which these poems return. Through the overarching metaphor of correction, Shoptaw associates this education with teaching his dialectal tongue how to talk and write correctly with the straightening and regulating of the river by the Army Corps of Engineers. While informed by his education, Shoptaw's poems regularly erode and evolve their traditional forms. In *Blues Haiku*, he crosses the syllabic haiku with the accentual blues tercet; in *Itasca*, he parodies Longfellow's learned *Hiawatha*; in *Shuffle*, he delivers an outsized variation on the sestina; and, in *Heebie Jeebies*, he creates a jazzed rendition of a Miltonic masque. Delightful in its formal invention and informed by an eco-poetic urgency,...



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