

The Harrows of Spring: A World Made by Hand Novel (World Made by Hand Novels)

By James Howard Kunstler




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From renowned social critic, energy expert, and bestselling author James Howard Kunstler, *The Harrows of Spring* is a moving and gripping novel that completes the story of the quaint upstate New York town of Union Grove, thrown into a future world that in many ways resembles the nineteenth century.

In Union Grove, early spring is a challenging season, known as the “six weeks want,” a time when fresh food is scarce and the winter stores are dwindling. The town is struggling in particular this year as the Hudson River trade route to Albany has been halted by the local plantation tycoon Stephen Bullock, who has deemed it too resource-intensive and is now striving for self-sufficiency. Meanwhile, after returning from his travels around what is left of the United States, Daniel Earle is intent on resurrecting a newspaper for the community, and finds an interesting story to cover when representatives of a group of anti-establishment, hyper-liberals known as the Berkshire People’s Republic arrive in the town. The thrilling conclusion to Kunstler’s beloved series, *The Harrows of Spring* is a powerful, moving tale of insurrection, survival, and what it means to be human.

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The Harrows of Spring: A World Made by Hand Novel (World Made by Hand Novels) By James Howard Kunstler Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

Praise for *The Harrows of Spring*:

“A deliberate and suspenseful tale spiked with suffering and violence, rough justice and love . . . A slyly folksy, caustically hilarious, unabashedly proselytizing, and affecting finale in a keenly provocative saga.”—*Booklist*

“The fourth and final volume in a series of visionary novels begun with cult-favorite, 70,000-copy-selling *World Made by Hand*. Things are stirring in Union Grove, an upstate New York town in a future that feels much like the 19th century.”—*Library Journal*

“The book’s reflection of America has a kind of fun-house mirror effect in producing scenes that echo a distant American past while speaking in a contemporary tongue . . . An entertaining . . . account of an American society reinventing itself in the wake of a terrorist attack.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

“To my mind, the mark of a great book is when a reader starts to savor each and every page as the end draws near . . . James Howard Kunstler achieves this greatness not only in *The Harrows of Spring* but in his entire ‘World Made by Hand’ series . . . I am going to miss this series of four books as much as any in recent memory . . . My reading life has been filled with many memorable books, but I do so envy any reader who gets to sit down with Kunstler’s series of books for the very first time.”—*Fredericksburg.com*

Praise for the *World Made by Hand* series:

“Far from a typical postapocalyptic novel. It caters neither to a pseudo-morbid nor faddishly slick vision of the future. Though grim with portent, it is ultimately, as Camus’s novel *The Plague*, an impassioned and invigorating tale whose ultimate message is one of hope, not despair.”—*San Francisco Chronicle on World Made by Hand*

“The verisimilitude of Kunstler’s world leads me to think the future is Union Grove. Thirty years from now, it will be interesting to see if that little town seems excessively sad, richly luxurious or spot on. But for now, I’m hedging my bets. Where I Live, one block east of ground zero, I’ve started keeping a compost bin and am thinking about adding a micro wind generator. Two blocks south, the damaged former Deutsche Bank building comes down floor by floor. To the north, the Freedom Tower has just emerged aboveground and may one day be full of investment bankers. Recently, though, I’ve started looking at that plot through Kunstler’s eyes. It gets good sunlight, and it occurs to me it would make a hell of a bean field.”—*The New York Times Book Review on World Made by Hand*

“Chronicles the aftereffects of the collapse of our technological society in the near future . . . Kunstler’s storytelling talents are in evidence here. . . .Kunstler has punctuated the nightmarish scenario of his novel with . . . poignant moments where hope and despair vie for dominance of the human spirit.”—*The Seattle Times on World Made by Hand*

“In many ways [The Witch of Hebron] reminded me of Larry McMurty’s *Lonesome Dove*, set in the

dystopian world of *The Road*. . . . By the middle of the book you are immersed in a richly imagined ‘world made by hand,’ eagerly devouring every page. . . . [Kunstler] has woven his nightmares into a vision of America after a complete economic, political, and cultural collapse.”—*New York Journal of Books on The Witch of Hebron*

“Kunstler offers a sharply cautionary tale, conjuring up bizarre characters who would be right at home in the scariest haunted houses. . . . Kunstler excels at writing lyric passages about nature . . . His acute pessimism about the future coexists with his faith in the human instinct to survive and adapt . . . [and] he demonstrates that the human penchant for storytelling is unlikely ever to become extinct so long as a single human being has breath enough to speak and strength enough to write.”—*America Magazine on The Witch of Hebron*

"What's after Armageddon? No government, no laws, no infrastructure, no oil, no industry....and sometimes a sense of relief. In James Howard Kunstler's richly imagined *World Made by Hand*, the bone-weary denizens of Union Grove (with its echo of *Our Town's* Grover's Corners) cope with everything from mercenary thugs to religious extremists, yet manage to plant a few seeds of human decency that bear fruit."— *O Magazine on World Made by Hand*

“One pitfall in painting a convincing picture of the future is forgetting all the small ways in which life would differ if big changes swept in. Kunstler avoids it, and his catalog of such finer points is a subtle, continuing pleasure.”—*The Boston Globe on World Made by Hand*

About the Author

James Howard Kunstler is the author of thirteen novels, including *World Made by Hand*, *The Witch of Hebron*, *A History of the Future*, and five nonfiction books, including *The Long Emergency* and *Too Much Magic*. He has participated in TED conferences and lectured at Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Cornell, MIT, and many other colleges, and regularly appears before professional organizations across the country. He lives in upstate New York.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Juan Palmer:

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Bruce Benedict:

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Dave Edwards:

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