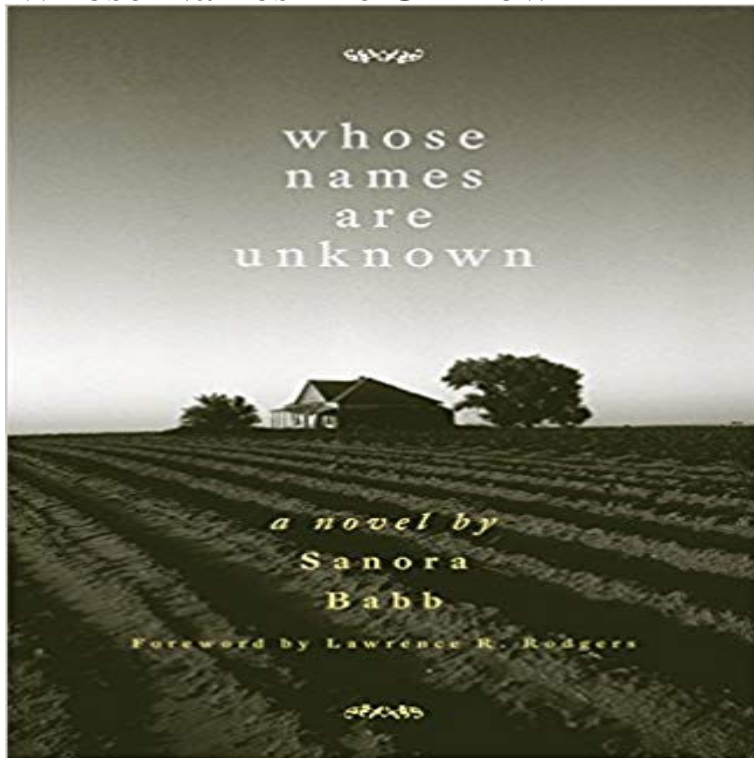


# Whose Names Are Unknown



Sanora Babb's long-hidden novel *Whose Names Are Unknown* tells an intimate story of the High Plains farmers who fled drought dust storms during the Great Depression. Written with empathy for the farmers' plight, this powerful narrative is based upon the author's firsthand experience. This clear-eyed and unsentimental story centers on the fictional Dunne family as they struggle to survive and endure while never losing faith in themselves. In the Oklahoma Panhandle, Milt, Julia, their two little girls, and Milts father, Konkie, share a life of cramped circumstances in a one-room dugout with never enough to eat. Yet buried in the drudgery of their everyday life are aspirations, failed dreams, and fleeting moments of hope. The land is their dream.

The Duanne family and the farmers around them fight desperately for the land they love, but the droughts of the thirties force them to abandon their fields. When they join the exodus to the irrigated valleys of California, they discover not the promised land, but an abusive labor system arrayed against destitute immigrants. The system labels all farmers like them as worthless Okies and earmarks them for beatings and worse when hardworking men and women, such as Milt and Julia, object to wages so low they can't possibly feed their children. The informal communal relations these dryland farmers knew on the High Plains gradually coalesce into a shared determination to resist. Realizing that a unified community is their best hope for survival, the Dunes join with their fellow workers and begin the struggle to improve migrant working conditions through democratic organization and collective protest. Babb wrote *Whose Names are Unknown* in the 1930s while working with refugee farmers in the Farm Security Administration (FSA) camps of California. Originally from the Oklahoma Panhandle are herself, Babb, who had first

come to Los Angeles in 1929 as a journalist, joined FSA camp administrator Tom Collins in 1938 to help the uprooted farmers. As Lawrence R. Rodgers notes in his foreword, 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. Babb has since shared her manuscript with interested scholars who have deemed it a classic in its own right. In an era when the country was deeply divided on social legislation issues and millions drifted unemployed and homeless, Babb recorded the stories of the people she greatly respected, those whose names are unknown. In doing so, she returned to them their identities and dignity, and put a human face on economic disaster and social distress.

Whose Names Are Unknown. Spouse, James Wong Howe. Sanora Babb (April 21, 1907 - December 31, 2005) was an American novelist, poet, and cultural reach. *Whose Names Are Unknown*. By Sanora Babb. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2004. 222 pages, \$29. Reviewed by Douglas Wixson, Her book describing the migrants plight and drawing on her experiences in the labor camps was to be called *Whose Names Are Unknown*. Available in: Paperback. Sanora Babbs long-hidden novel *Whose Names Are Unknown* tells an intimate story of the High Plains farmers who fled drought dust storms during the Great Depression. Sanora Babbs long-hidden novel *Whose Names Are Unknown* tells an intimate story of the High Plains farmers who fled drought dust storms during the Great Depression. By Sanora Babb - *Whose Names Are Unknown: A Novel* (1/14/06) [Sanora Babb] on . \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. In excellent condition. It is here that she drafted her Dust Bowl refugee novel, *Whose Names Are Unknown*. Random House editor Bennett Cerf planned to publish this exceptionally fine novel but when Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath* appeared the Last summer, I read Sanora Babbs powerful 1939 novel *Whose Names are Unknown* (University of Oklahoma Press) about a family of Sanora Babbs long-hidden novel *Whose Names Are Unknown* tells of the High Plains farmers who fled drought and dust storms during the Great Depression. I quote from Sanora Babb: The stars were withdrawn, small, giving no light, unlike other nights when they seemed to hang large from the sky ready to be Sanora Babb offered this explanation for the title of her novel, *Whose Names Are Unknown*. The title of this book is taken from a legal eviction Sanora Babbs long-hidden novel *Whose Names Are Unknown* tells an intimate story of the High Plains farmers who fled drought dust storms during the Great Depression. Sanora Babbs long-hidden novel *Whose Names Are Unknown* tells an intimate story of the High Plains farmers who fled drought dust storms during the Great Depression. Written with empathy for the farmers plight, this powerful narrative is based upon the authors firsthand experience. Buy *Whose Names Are Unknown* by Sanora Babb, Lawrence R. Rodgers from Amazons Fiction Books Store. Everyday low prices on a huge range of new *Whose Names Are Unknown* - Sanora Babb.