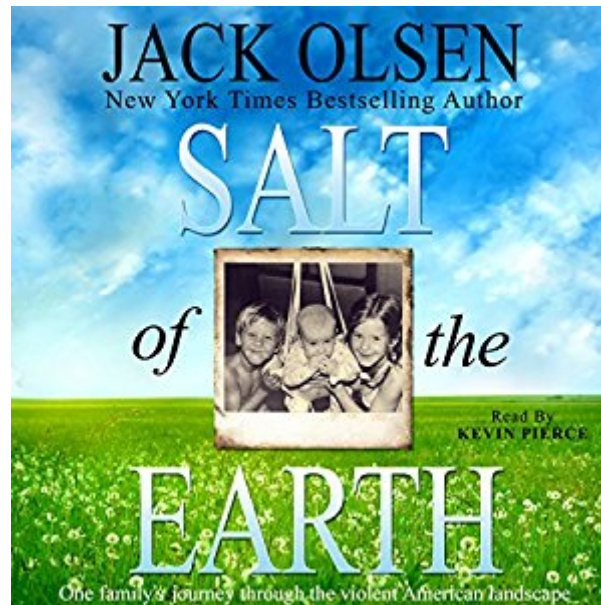


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# Salt Of The Earth



## Synopsis

Joe Gere said he died on the afternoon his 12-year-old daughter Brenda disappeared. It was left to Brenda's mother Elaine to sustain her stricken family, search for her missing child, and pressure the authorities for justice. From the first minutes of the investigation, suspicion fell on Michael Kay Green, a steroid-abusing "Mr. Universe" hopeful, but there was no proof of a crime, leaving police and prosecutors stymied. Tips and sightings poured in as lawmen and volunteers combed the Cascades forest in the biggest search in Northwest history. Years passed with no sight of the blue-eyed girl or the bright clothes she'd worn on the day she disappeared, but Elaine remained undaunted. *Salt of the Earth* is the true story of how one woman fought and triumphed over life-shattering violence and how she healed her family - and herself. *Salt of the Earth* is the true story of a courageous woman who survived a hellish 20th-century nightmare. Mob violence, injustice, kidnapping, murder, and suicide were the black holes in the awful astronomy of Elaine Gere's life. Somehow she had to summon the courage to endure: to honor her beloved dead and to rebuild the shattered lives of the sons who depended on her strength. Jack Olsen has been lauded for his psychological insights into the most violent criminals in such previous masterworks as *Doc*, *The Misbegotten Son*, and *Predator*, but he has never overlooked their victims. By viewing the world through the eyes of Elaine Gere and her devastated family, he finds the core values that enabled them not only to survive and flourish, but, in the end, to triumph.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As he always does, Olsen does an excellent job of bringing the people in the book to life. This is a

frustrating book in many ways. Long before I was halfway through the book, I had lost all sympathy for Joe Gere, who was a self-centered, monumentally selfish drunk who couldn't hold down a job and kept moving his hapless family hither and yon. Twelve moves in twenty years? That's ridiculous. As soon as his wife finished fixing up the house and his kids had settled into a new school and made new friends, Joe Gere lost his job or got restless and uprooted them yet again. As for Elaine Gere, as much as one has to admire her resilience and ingenuity and willingness to work hard, one also is astonished by the way she carried denial to the point of insanity. She flatly refused to perceive that the "wonderful" man she married was not wonderful at all, but was instead a selfish, self-pitying drunk who really cared about no one but himself. By refusing to see the truth, and clinging stubbornly to her promise that her marriage would be "forever," Elaine Gere became the consummate "enabler," supporting the family when Joe couldn't or wouldn't, cleaning up his messes, rescuing the family from the many disasters he caused, and endlessly, endlessly making excuses for him. Yes, Elaine coped amazingly well with the trials and tribulations of her life-- but she brought most of those on herself by refusing to admit that she'd married a drunken loser who would find endless ways to screw up her life.

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