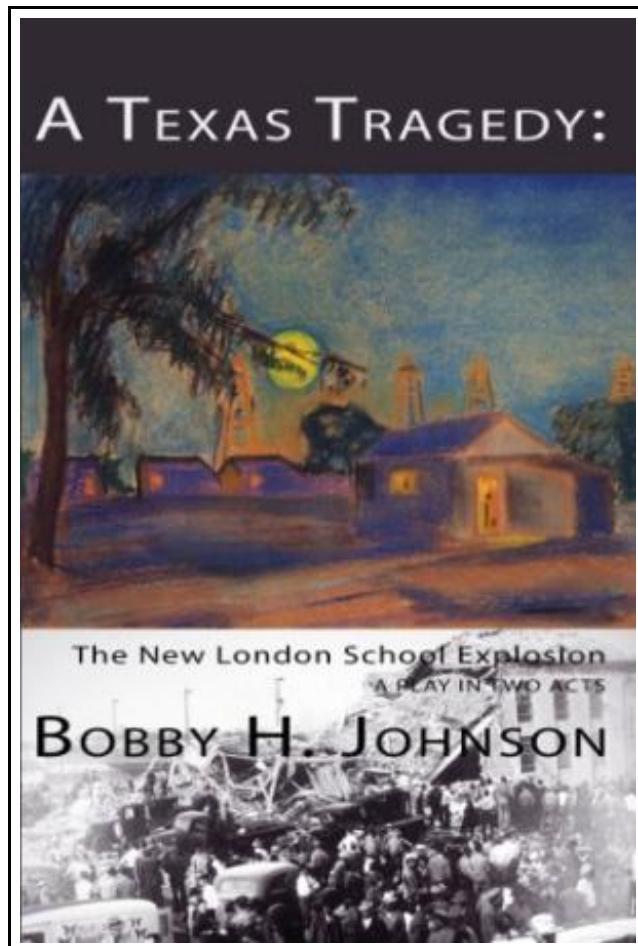


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A TEXAS TRAGEDY: THE NEW LONDON SCHOOL EXPLOSION

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Stephen F. Austin State University Press, United States, 2012. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 226 x 150 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Seventy-five years after the New London, Texas, school explosion instantaneously ended life for three hundred students, haunted memories of all who knew them, and hushed a community's discussion of an unspeakable event, the detailed story is now told. On March 18, 1937, Bobby H. Johnson was an infant in New London destined to become the scribe, oral historian, and dramatist for the tragedy. His first-grade brother became a member of the exclusive circle of survivors by fluke: Forgetting that his mother had given him permission to stay after school and play with a friend, he took an early bus home to safety. But his mind never erased the image of a cloud of dust in the direction of the school that he saw from his bus window a mile away. Dr. Johnson's parents found their rock-solid faith threatened by the questions raised on March 18, 1937, comforted somewhat by the preacher who comforted them with the wisdom of Tennyson's *There lives more faith in honest doubt than in half the creeds and in the scriptural promise that Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.* For the past forty years, Dr. Johnson has recorded hundreds of oral history interviews with New Londoners and East Texans and filed mental notes as he heard conversations about things that happened on that day when infancy protected his awareness of the horror in New London. I was in first grade in Leonard, Texas, 125 miles away, never conscious of the tragedy, probably because my parents wanted to shelter me. It was not until six years later when I was in...

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