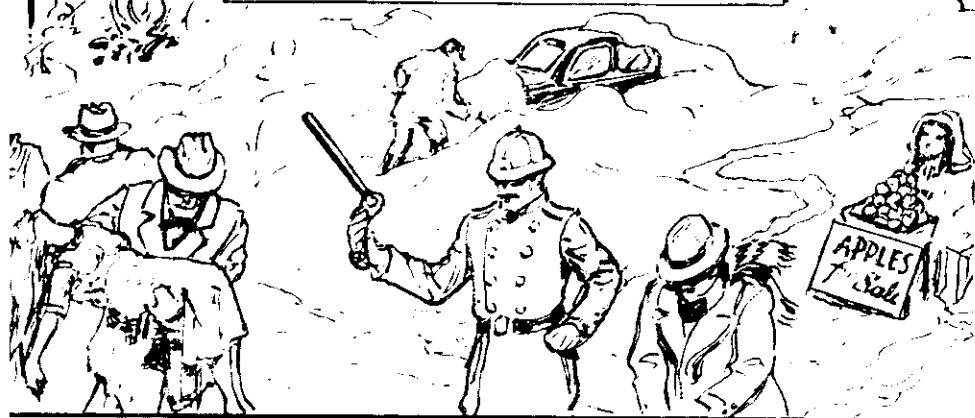


WHEN *the* Storm Broke!

A Novel of the Great Depression

By Ethel Shapiro-Bertolini



WHEN THE STORM BROKE

A Novel of the Great Depression

Here is perhaps the first book of fiction in the English language that tells the story of the first three years of the Great Depression, when the nation faced the danger of becoming so demoralized and prostrate as to be incapable of coping with the effects of the disaster. These were the years which laid the basis for much that followed in that memorable decade: the great social advances, the unprecedented unity of blacks and whites, the birth of social security, the formation of the large trade union center, C. I. O., and a general cultural upheaval.

After four years of research and numerous interviews, the author has completed a comprehensive work which describes in personal, sympathetic terms, the events and the groups which led a large scale resistance movement against hunger, and succeeded in staving off an even greater tragedy than history now records.

Within the panorama of the Depression, the author focuses on the radicals who fought to prevent mass evictions of jobless tenants and who organized to obtain unemployment relief. She lays before the reader the black ghetto of Chicago, where the experienced black, Isaac, joins with the fiery black youth, Willie Rivers, and the stockyard worker, Mirko Yanich, to lead anti-eviction battles. The scene switches to New York when Mirko is sent to study Marxism; in this troubled city he encounters the epitome of female radicalism in Christine Wesly. Further demonstrations seeking a moratorium on evictions and relief for dire cases continue throughout the country.

Willie's and Mirko's friendship becomes cemented during the ensuing battles of the employed and unemployed Mid-westerners.

By
ETHEL SHAPIRO-BERTOLINI

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ethel Shapiro-Bertolini's first short stories appeared during 1941 in *The New Masses*. For the duration of the war she was on the staff of the United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers of America (CIO), and since then has been a labor journalist, and editor of several house magazines. She is now working on her third novel, *Unleashing the Giant*, the story of the New Deal and the formation of the Congress of Industrial Organization (CIO), of which she was an active participant.



Commenting on *When the Storm Broke*, Mrs. Bertolini says, "It aims to catch that rare historical moment when the tide against total demoralization was held back by masses of hungry people, and a new spirit for survival was created. It is the story about the ordinary, the average people, the young boys and girls; it is the story of their courage during a time of intense, exciting and most significant ferment...It tells the story of black people finding hope and unity with whites during the midst of the greatest catastrophe of our times, which in turn has had a fundamental influence on the life of all-blacks and whites."

WHEN THE STORM BROKE

*A Novel of the Great Depression
1929-1933*

By Ethel Shapiro-Bertolini

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