



# A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion

*Bobby Johnson*

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

# A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion

*Bobby Johnson*

**A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion** Bobby Johnson

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 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 elementary school in Hooks, Texas, that one of my teachers told my class the harrowing story of New London. After her dramatic tale, we unnerved students cautiously walked the hallways sniffing the air for scents of odorized gas.

As an insider, Dr. Johnson was prepared for his role as the future New London dramatist by studies in history and journalism leading to a Ph.D. degree at the University of Oklahoma and the beginning of his career teaching history at Stephen F. Austin University, where he retired as a Regents Professor of History. He enrolled in a playwriting course taught at SFA by Jack Heffner, a Corsicana native and author of "Vanities," the most frequently performed American play of the 1970s. From the course on crafting a play, Dr. Johnson mastered the final elements he needed to complete "A Texas Tragedy": characterization, themes, and staging. From his appreciation of American literature, he understood how the stage manager in Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" orchestrated the themes and how poet Edgar Lee Masters handled ordinary people struggling with life in *Spoon River Anthology*. With a stage set of several acting areas anchored by a porch reminiscent of his parents' home, the acting area also accommodates a circle of truth platform where the preacher holds forth and witnesses enact a variety of personal encounters with the disaster. Hymn-singing groups set the tone for a grief-stricken community whose strong faith seeks resilience.

 [Download A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosio ...pdf](#)



## **Download and Read Free Online A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion Bobby Johnson**

---

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Jason Urso:**

Book is usually written, printed, or created for everything. You can understand everything you want by a reserve. Book has a different type. As you may know that book is important factor to bring us around the world. Beside that you can your reading skill was fluently. A reserve A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion will make you to end up being smarter. You can feel a lot more confidence if you can know about anything. But some of you think which open or reading some sort of book make you bored. It isn't make you fun. Why they could be thought like that? Have you seeking best book or acceptable book with you?

#### **Marsha Bridges:**

Here thing why this A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion are different and reputable to be yours. First of all examining a book is good but it really depends in the content of the usb ports which is the content is as yummy as food or not. A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion giving you information deeper and different ways, you can find any guide out there but there is no publication that similar with A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion. It gives you thrill reading through journey, its open up your current eyes about the thing which happened in the world which is possibly can be happened around you. It is possible to bring everywhere like in park your car, café, or even in your approach home by train. If you are having difficulties in bringing the branded book maybe the form of A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion in e-book can be your substitute.

#### **Robin Lawrence:**

Do you have something that you like such as book? The publication lovers usually prefer to opt for book like comic, quick story and the biggest one is novel. Now, why not striving A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion that give your enjoyment preference will be satisfied by reading this book. Reading routine all over the world can be said as the method for people to know world considerably better then how they react to the world. It can't be explained constantly that reading behavior only for the geeky individual but for all of you who wants to end up being success person. So , for every you who want to start reading as your good habit, it is possible to pick A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion become your current starter.

#### **Eduardo Fernandez:**

Are you kind of active person, only have 10 or perhaps 15 minute in your moment to upgrading your mind ability or thinking skill also analytical thinking? Then you are receiving problem with the book compared to can satisfy your small amount of time to read it because this time you only find book that need more time to be learn. A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion can be your answer given it can be read by a person who have those short extra time problems.

**Download and Read Online A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion Bobby Johnson #2UCQHG3OV6P**

## **Read A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion by Bobby Johnson for online ebook**

A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion by Bobby Johnson Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion by Bobby Johnson books to read online.

### **Online A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion by Bobby Johnson ebook PDF download**

**A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion by Bobby Johnson Doc**

**A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion by Bobby Johnson Mobipocket**

**A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion by Bobby Johnson EPub**