An elegy for our changing landscape by a master photographer. Since making his earliest documentary photographs in the 1950s, David Plowden has honored those proud structures and places that America has discarded; from brawny commercial and industrial centers to small towns and farms. He reveres the honest work and spirit that built them. But the scene has changed much in the last five decades, and what's left of the honesty of small communities and the working of the land is all but gone, dealt a death blow by outsourcing, conglomerization, and our incessant drive to buy cheap at any cost. The America of these photographs is a bittersweet reminder of things once cherished and a life no longer possible. Deserted Main Streets and crumbling facades stare at us blindly. Abandoned houses and buildings reach back to ground. Plowden's work is a sad symphony; incomparably and irresistibly beautiful, while reminding us of our loss. 77 duotone photographs.

My Personal Review:
David Plowden, in "A Handful of Dust: Disappearing America," continues his remarkable success in being one of the most significant, contemporary visual historians of America's fast disappearing past. His evocative images of marginal, often abandoned and disintegrating buildings and structures poignantly reminds us both of the transient nature of human endeavor and of the necessity of such endeavor in every age upon which society depends. In addition to providing grist for philosophical insights and musings, his meticulously composed images offer the viewer strong, black and white patterns and details that invite closer scrutiny and discovery.

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