

There are things that
others can't imagine for us.

Books with Powerful Messages of Social Change



Non-Fiction The journeys of people who navigate social barriers

Fiction A deepening understanding of the human experience and society

Social Analysis Issues, activism, and visions for social change

Critical Literacy...

- ▶ “involves making connections between the text and the world, questioning the author and the text’s purpose [i.e., characters’ motivations, context], and understanding how we are influenced by the text.”

Source: *Critical Literacy, Enhancing Students’ Comprehension of Text*

Human resistance,
human achievement

The potential beauty and
dignity of every aspect of
human life

Images of the
world, yourself, the
human condition

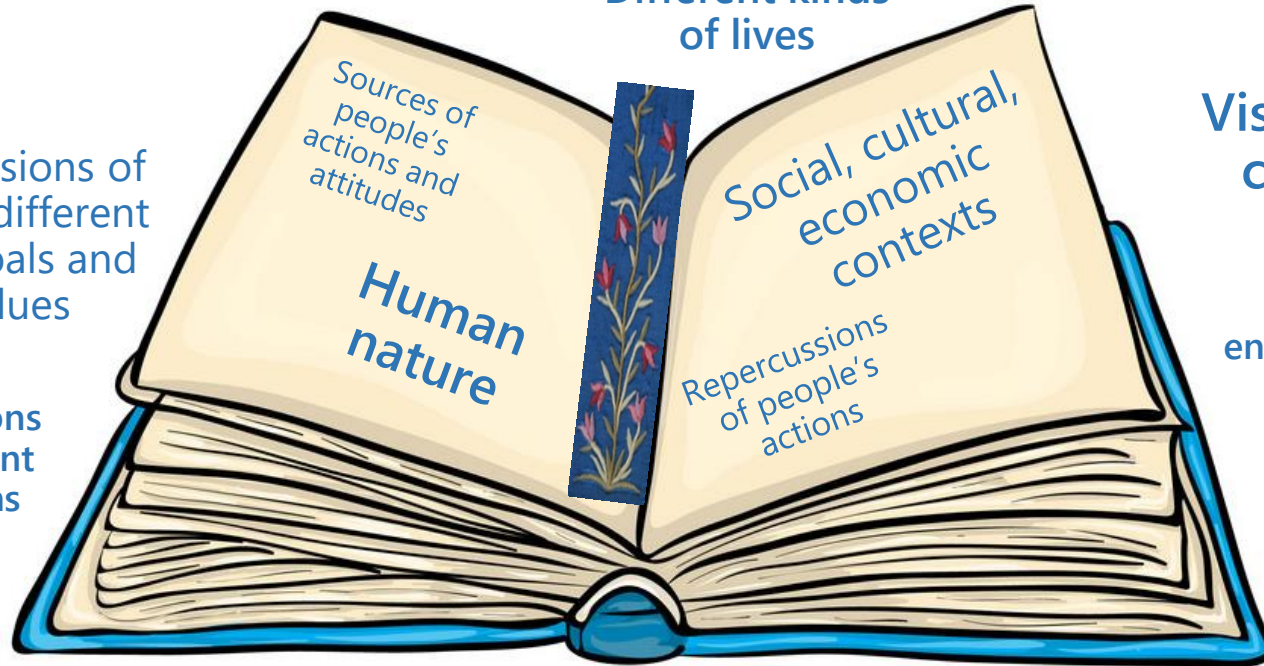
Imaginary situations

Different kinds
of lives

Visions for
change

Expressions of
many different
life goals and
values

Implications
of different
situations

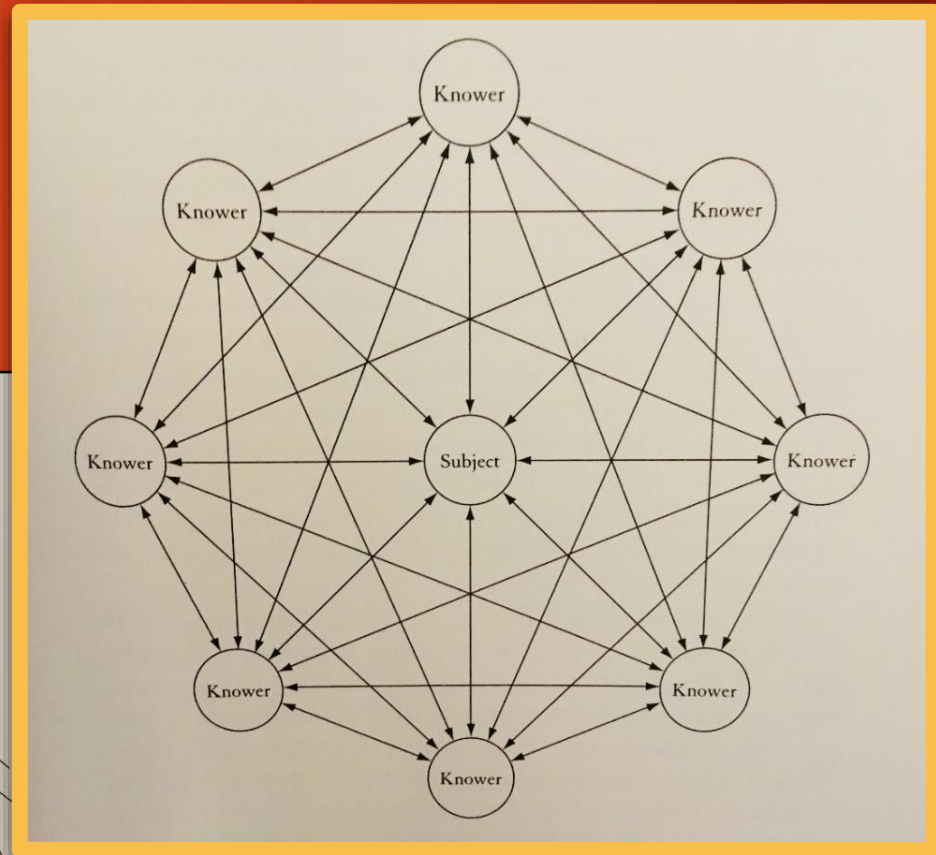
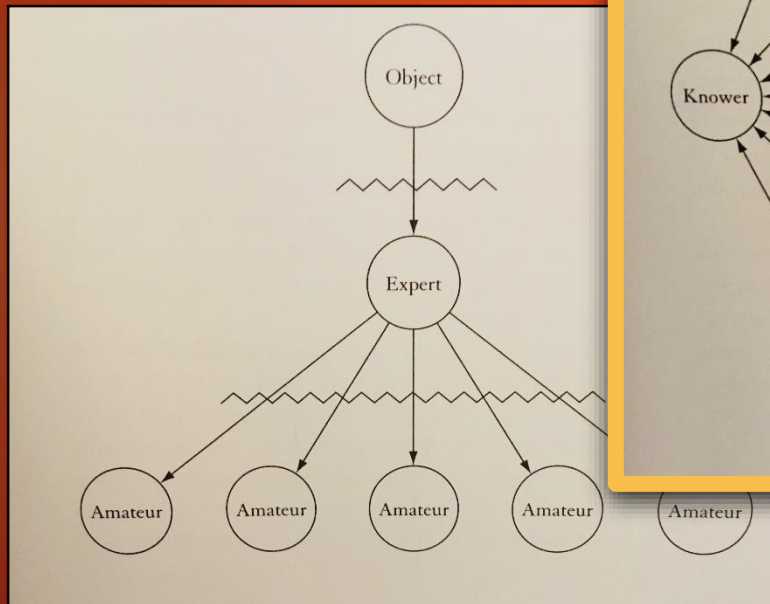


*Your experiences, interests, concerns, insights,
ideas, sense of wonder, sensations, images, emotions*

Our classroom

► Our classroom: Community of truth

Traditional classroom:
The objectivist myth of knowing



Source: *The Courage to Teach*

Before we begin reading

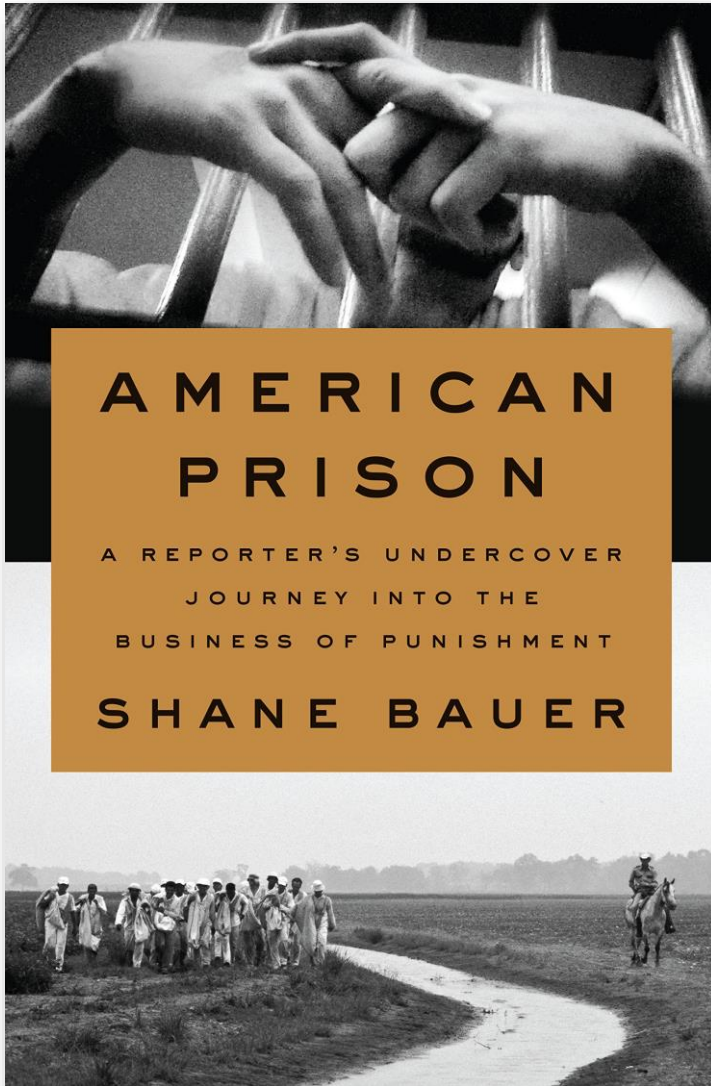
To be hopeful in bad times
is not just foolishly romantic.

It is based on the fact that human history
is a history not only of cruelty,
but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage, kindness.
If we remember those times and places—and there are so
many—where people have behaved magnificently,
this gives us the energy to act, and at least the possibility
of sending this spinning top of a world in a different direction.

– Howard Zinn



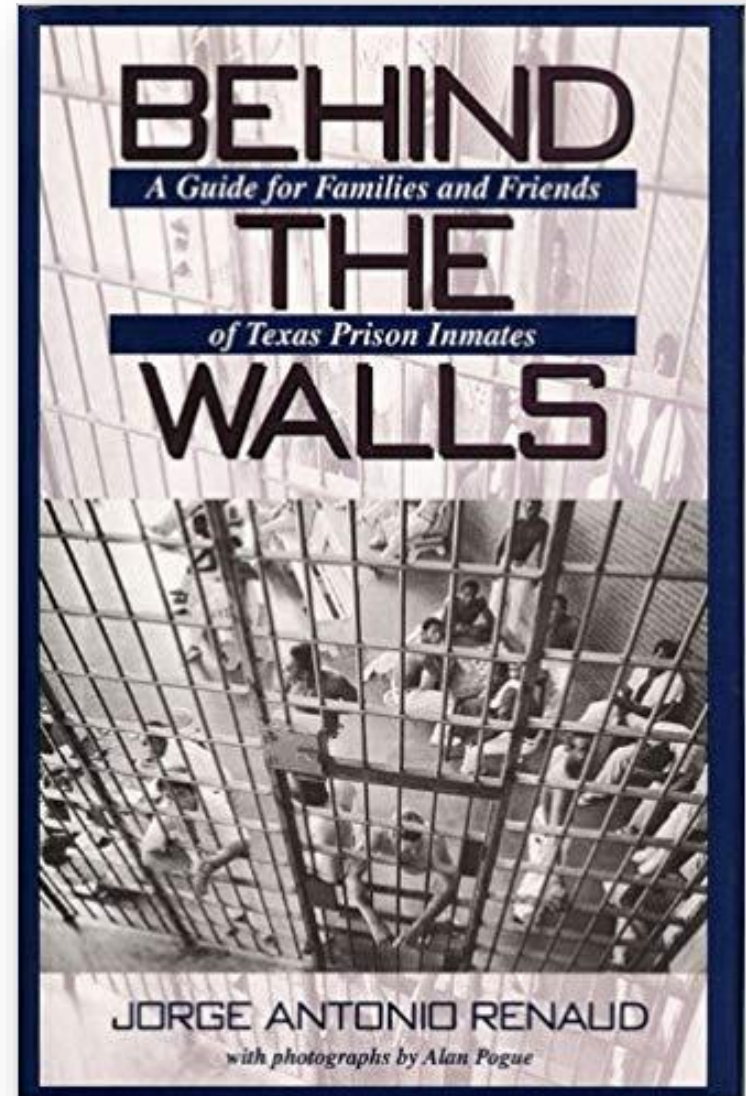
Non-Fiction



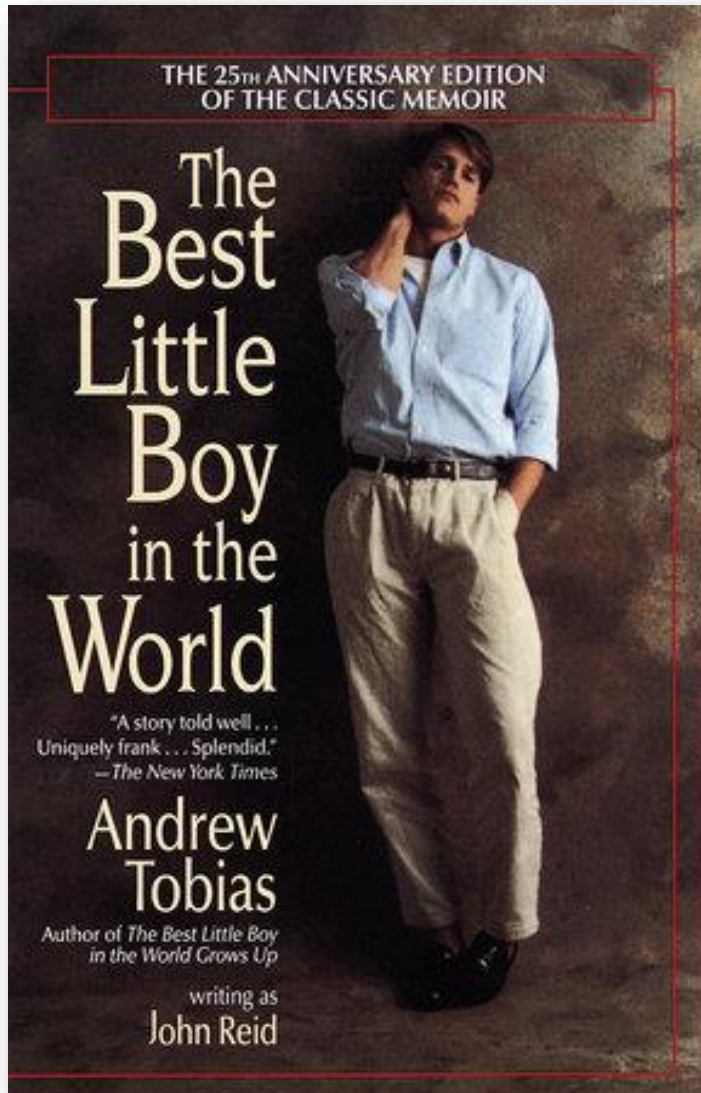
In 2014, Shane Bauer was hired for \$9 an hour to work as an entry-level prison guard at a private prison in Winnfield, Louisiana. An award-winning investigative journalist, he used his real name; there was no meaningful background check. Four months later, his employment came to an abrupt end. But he had seen enough, and in short order he wrote an exposé about his experiences. In *American Prison*, Bauer weaves a much deeper reckoning with his experiences together with a thoroughly researched history of for-profit prisons in America from their origins in the decades before the Civil War.

NON-FICTION

Behind the Walls, written while still incarcerated, is a detailed description of the world's largest prison system by a long-time convict trained as an observer and reporter. It spotlights the day-to-day workings of the Texas Department of Criminal. Written to inform about the processes, services, activities, issues, and problems of being incarcerated, this book is invaluable to anyone who has a relative or friend incarcerated in Texas, or for those who want to understand how prisoners live, eat, work, play, and die in a contemporary U.S. prison.



NON-FICTION

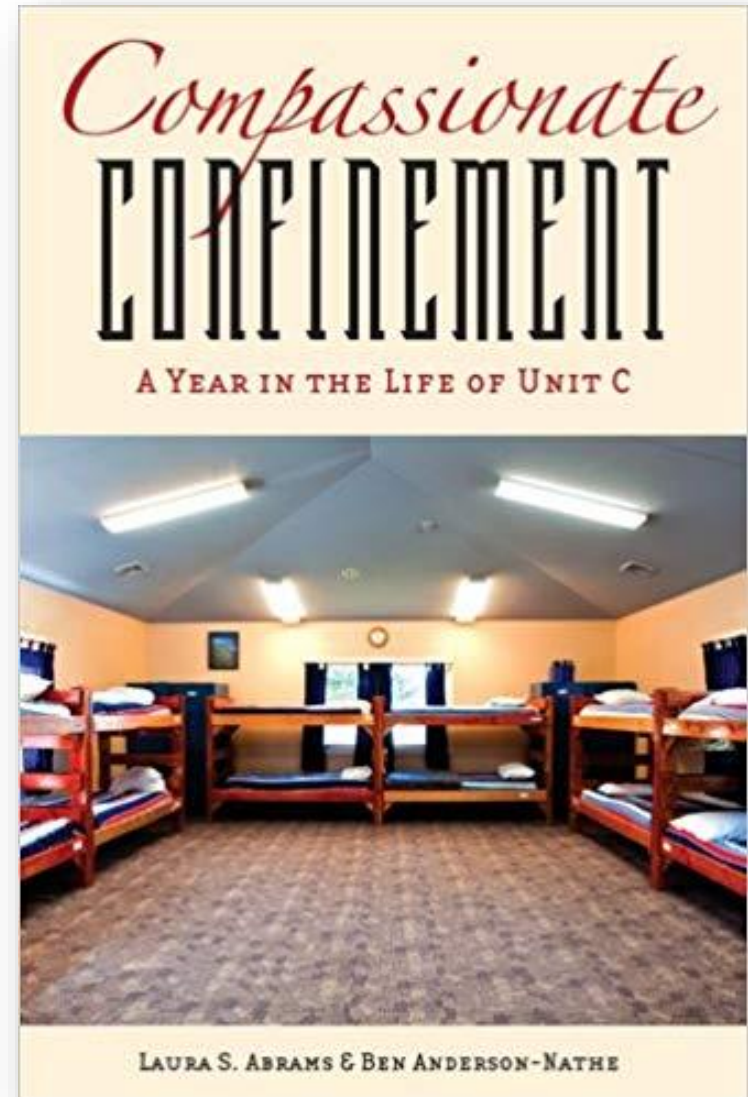


When *The Best Little Boy in the World* was first published in 1973, Andrew Tobias could write about what it had felt like to begin to accept his homosexuality, but he couldn't bring himself to sign his own name to the book, for fear of embarrassing his parents. And so it was "John Reid" who became a hero to the thousands of gay males who found in this memoir a mirror for their own experiences.

— Raptis Rare Books

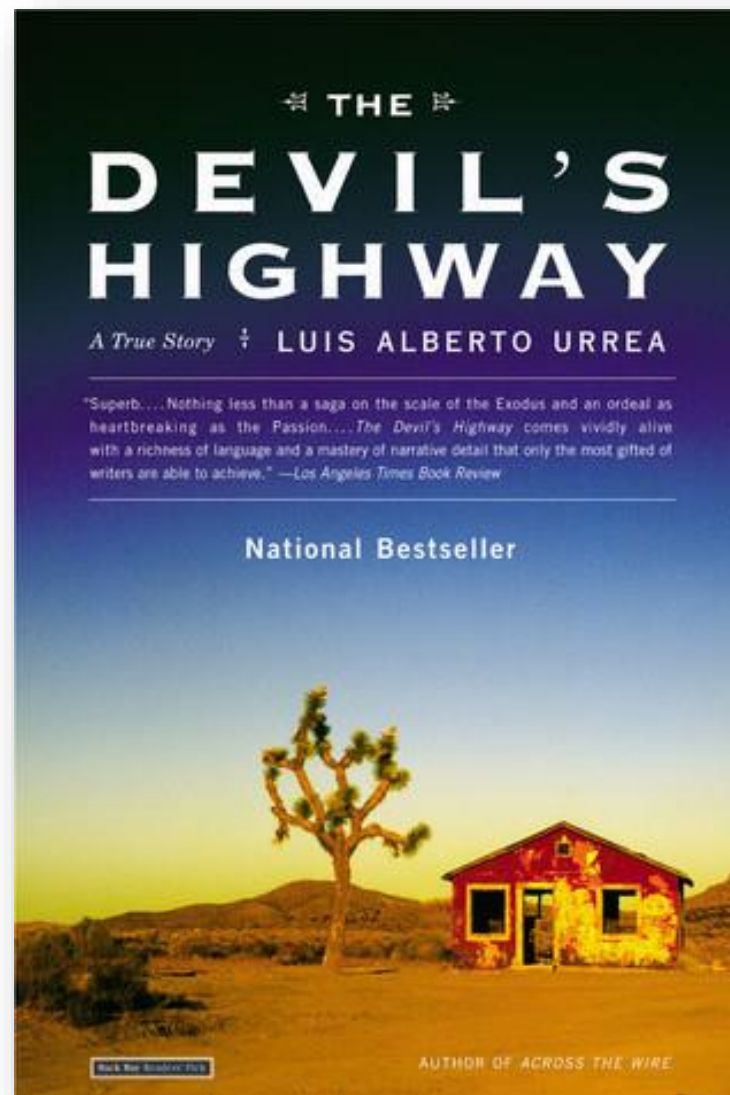
NON-FICTION

To date, knowledge of the everyday world of the juvenile correction institution has been extremely sparse. *Compassionate Confinement* brings to light the challenges and complexities inherent in the U.S. system of juvenile corrections. Building on over a year of field work at a boys' residential facility, Laura S. Abrams and Ben Anderson-Nathe provide a context for contemporary institutions and highlight some of the system's most troubling tensions. This ethnographic text utilizes narratives, observations, and case examples to illustrate the strain between treatment and correctional paradigms and the mixed messages regarding gender identity and masculinity that the youths are expected to navigate.

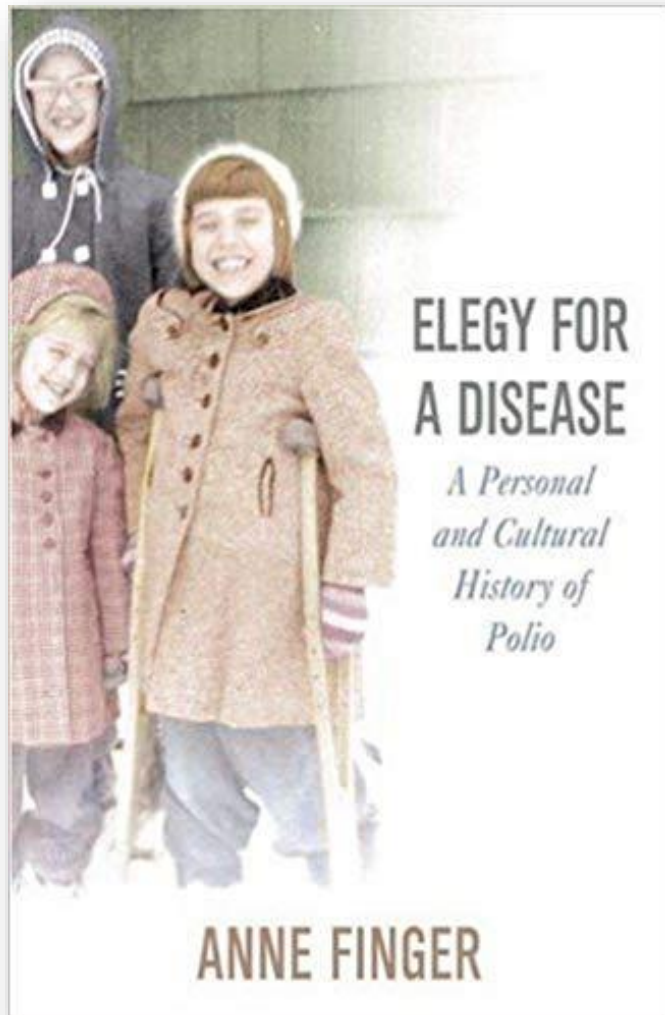


NON-FICTION

In May 2001, a group of men attempted to cross the Mexican border into the desert of southern Arizona, through the deadliest region of the continent, the "Devil's Highway." Three years later, Luis Alberto Urrea wrote about what happened to them. The result was a national bestseller, a Pulitzer Prize finalist, a "book of the year" in multiple newspapers, and a work proclaimed as a modern American classic.



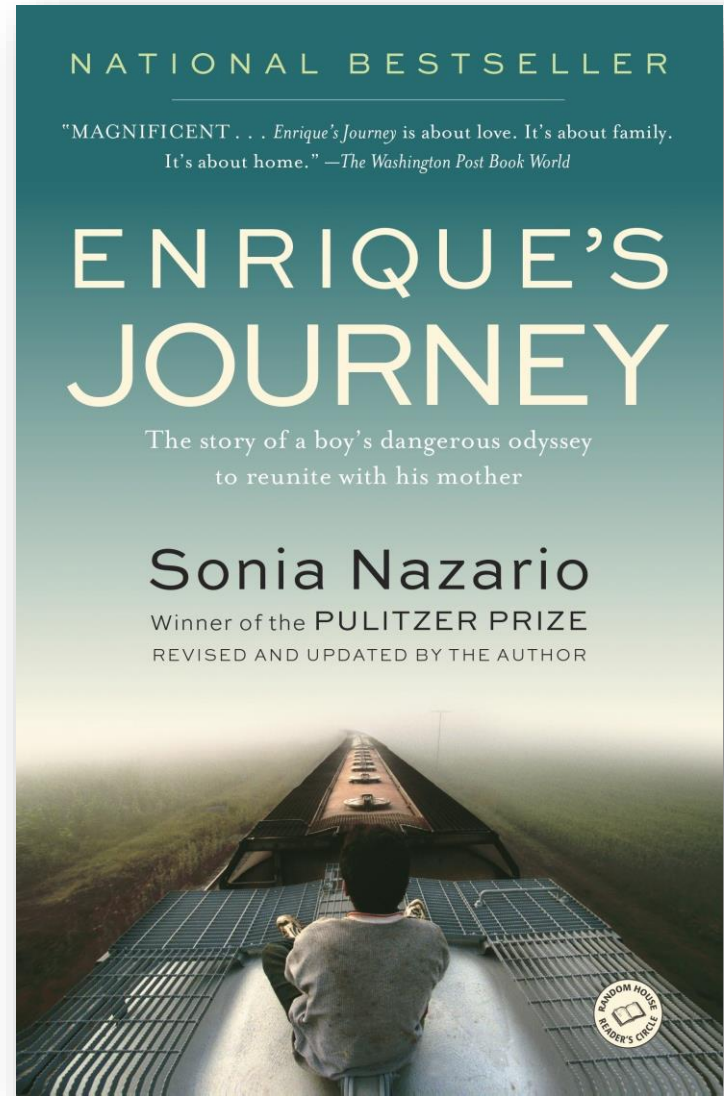
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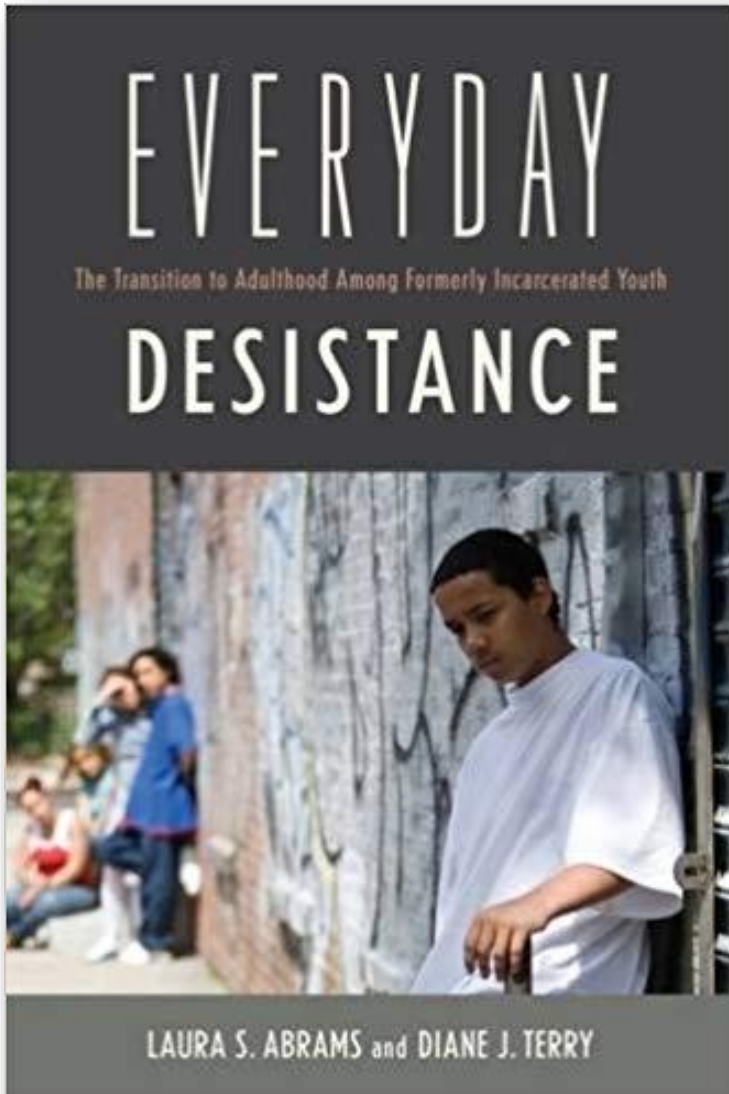
In this dazzling memoir, Anne Finger interweaves her personal experience with polio with a social and cultural history of the disease. Anne contracted polio as a very young child, just a few months before the Salk vaccine became widely available. After six months of hospitalization, she returned to her family's home in upstate New York, using braces and crutches. She writes about the physical expansiveness of her childhood, about medical attempts to "fix" her body, about family violence, job discrimination, and a life rich with political activism, writing, and motherhood.

NON-FICTION

Enrique's Journey recounts the unforgettable quest of a Honduran boy looking for his mother, eleven years after she is forced to leave her starving family to find work in the United States. Braving unimaginable peril, often clinging to the sides and tops of freight trains, Enrique travels through hostile worlds full of thugs, bandits, and corrupt cops. But he pushes forward, relying on his wit, courage, hope, and the kindness of strangers.

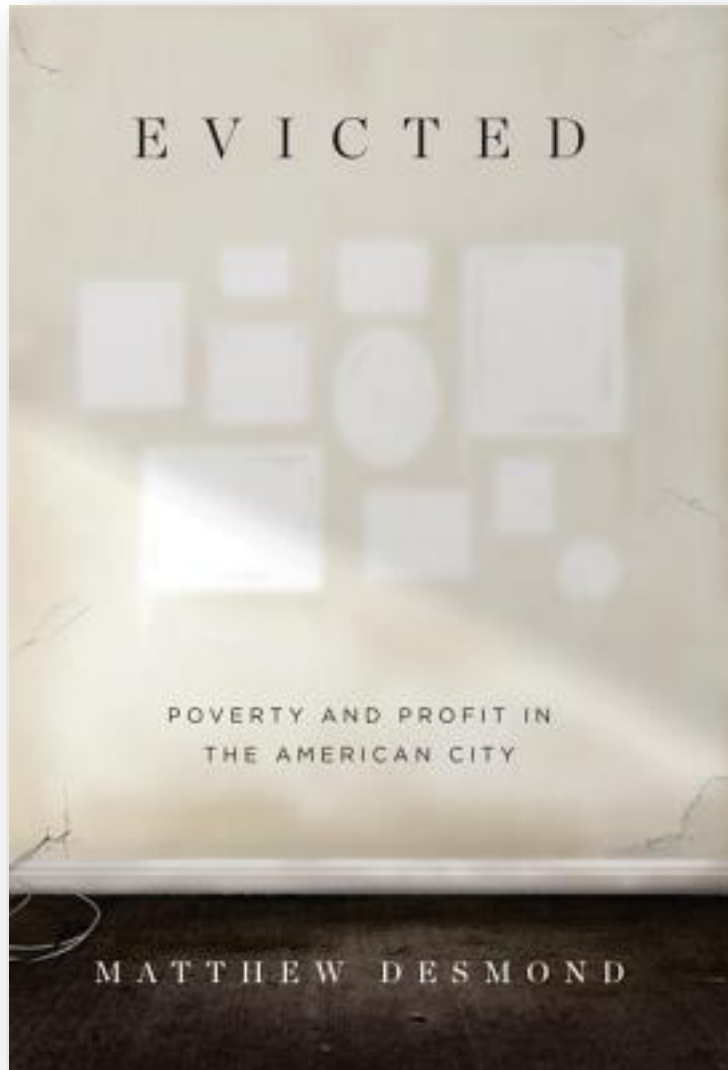


NON-FICTION



In *Everyday Desistance*, Laura Abrams and Diane J. Terry examine the lives of young people who spent considerable time in and out of correctional institutions as adolescents. In the context of urban Los Angeles, with a large-scale gang culture and diminished employment prospects, further involvement in crime appears almost inevitable. This book narrates the day-to-day experiences of these young men and women, focusing on their attempts to surmount the challenges of adulthood, resisting a return to criminal activity, and formulating long-term goals for a secure adult future.

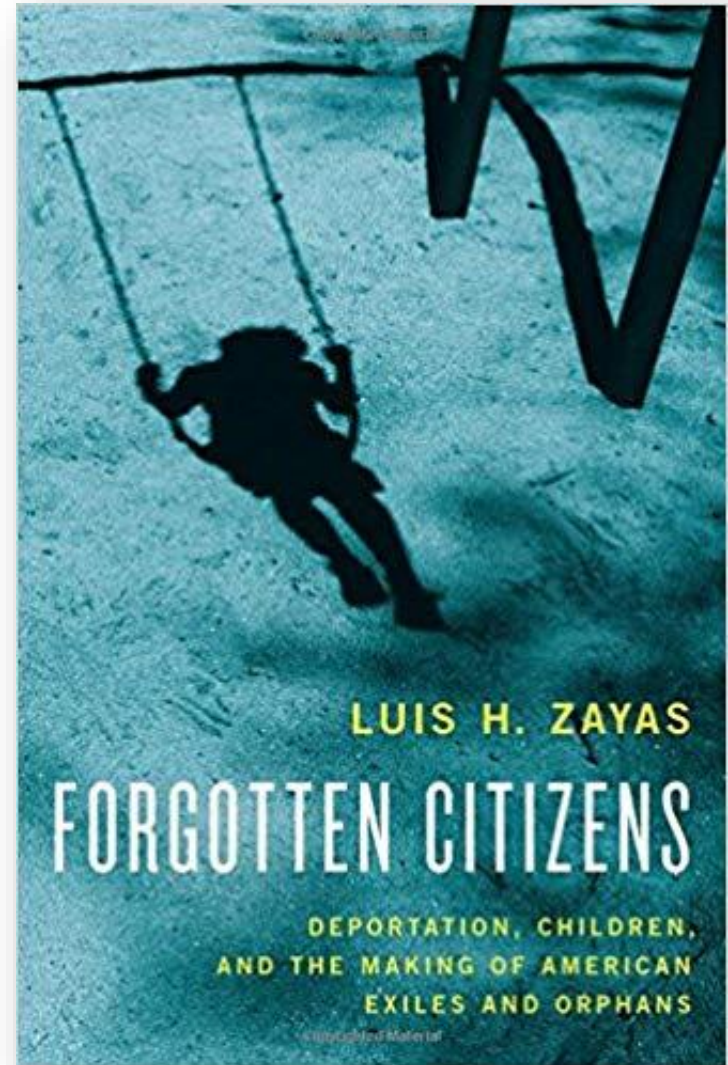
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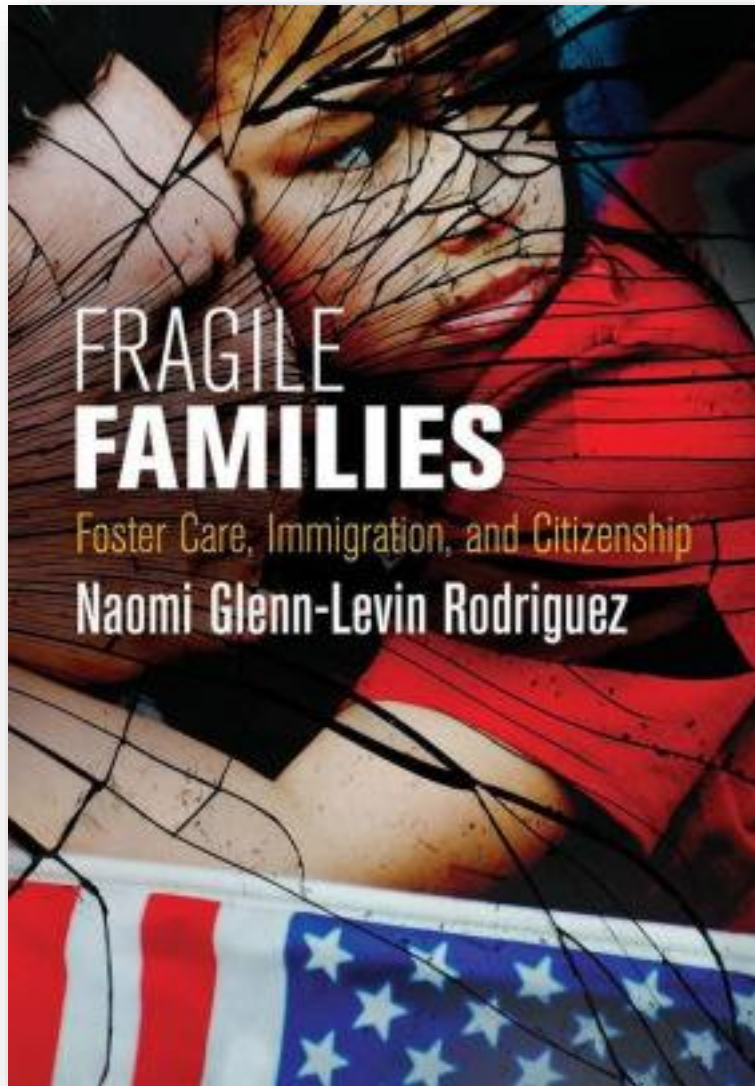
In *Evicted*, Princeton sociologist and MacArthur “Genius” Matthew Desmond follows eight families in Milwaukee as they struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Hailed as “wrenching and revelatory” (*The Nation*), “vivid and unsettling” (*New York Review of Books*), *Evicted* transforms our understanding of poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of 21st-century America’s most devastating problems. Its unforgettable scenes of hope and loss remind us of the centrality of home, without which nothing else is possible.

NON-FICTION

In *Forgotten Citizens*, Luis Zayas draws on his extensive work as a mental health clinician and researcher to present the most complete picture yet of how immigration policy subverts children's rights, harms their mental health, and leaves lasting psychological trauma. We meet Virginia, a kindergartener so terrified of revealing her family's status that she took her father's warning *don't say anything* so literally she hadn't spoken in school in over a year. We hear from Brandon, exiled with his family to Mexico, who worries that his father will die in the desert trying to immigrate again.



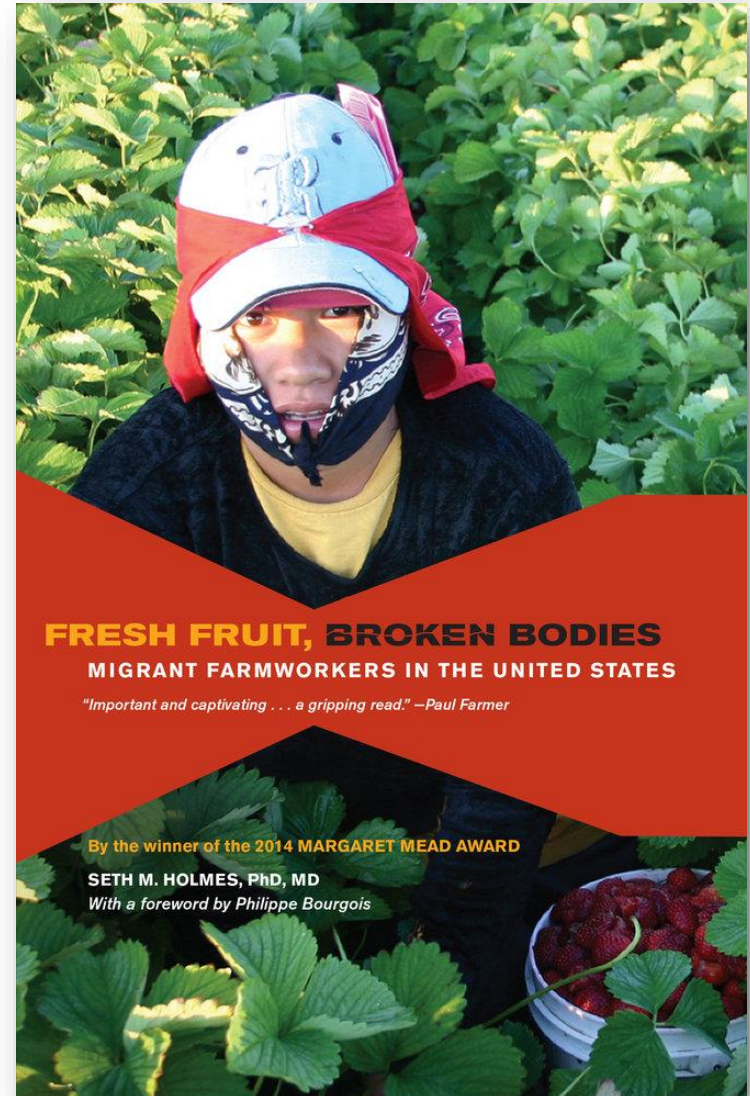
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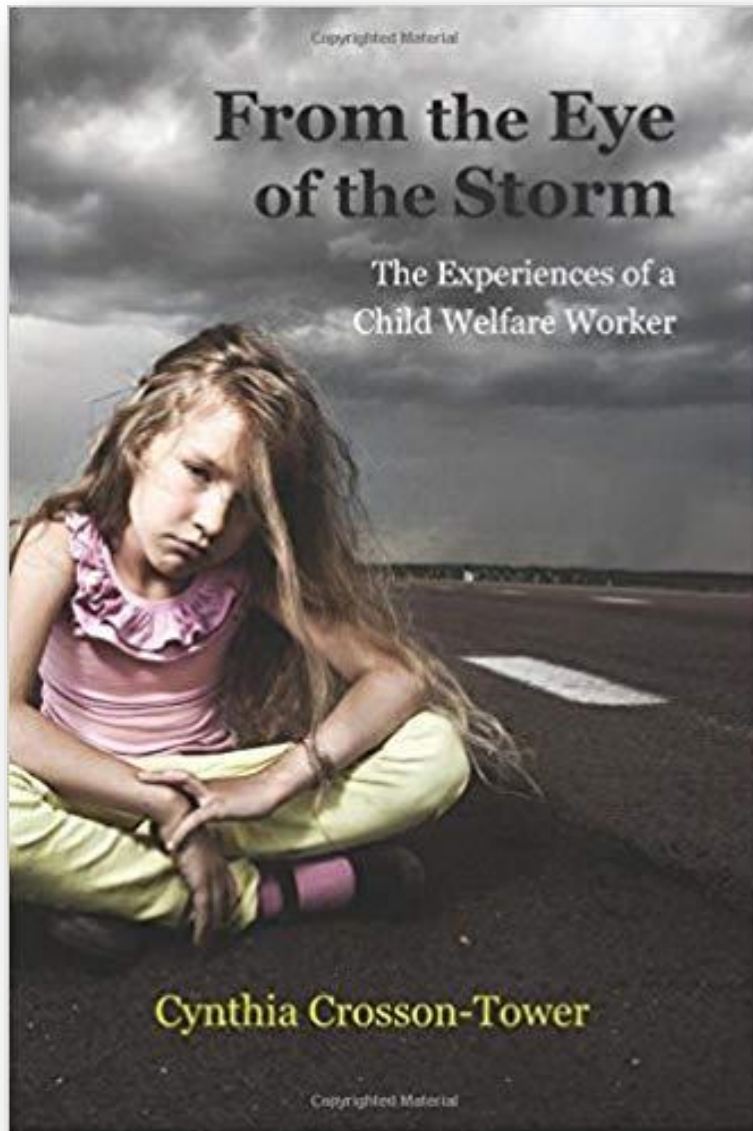
Based on research conducted in the San Diego-Tijuana region between 2008 and 2012, *Fragile Families* tells the stories of children, parents, social workers, and legal actors enmeshed in the child welfare system, and sheds light on the particular challenges faced by the children of detained and deported non-U.S. citizen parents who are simultaneously caught up in the immigration system in this border region.

NON-FICTION

Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies provides an intimate examination of the everyday lives and suffering of Mexican migrants in our contemporary food system. Seth M. Holmes shows how market forces, anti-immigrant sentiment, and racism undermine health and health care. Holmes's material is visceral and powerful. He trekked with his companions illegally through the desert into Arizona and was jailed with them before they were deported. He lived with indigenous families in the mountains of Oaxaca and in farm labor camps in the U.S. This "embodied anthropology" deepens our theoretical understanding of the ways in which social inequalities and suffering come to be perceived as normal and natural in society and in health care.



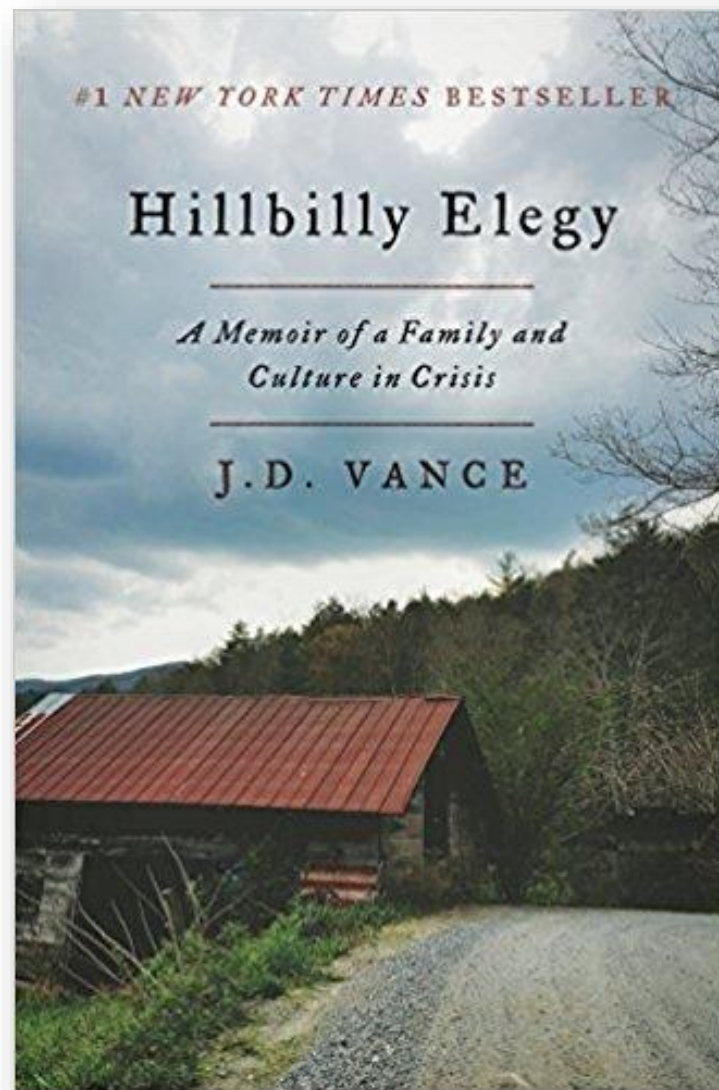
NON-FICTION



Crosson-Tower's first-person narrative, interwoven with glimpses of over 20 social welfare system [child abuse] cases, is a combination of engaging storytelling and stark reality. It recounts the early days of her career that spanned more than three decades. After landing a position in the Division of Child Guardianship in Boston, Crosson-Tower is quickly indoctrinated by department manuals, a heavy caseload, and the challenge of dealing with the unexpected. This exceptional window to the role of a social worker reveals unique and turbulent circumstances in which resiliency and sensitivity play a large part.

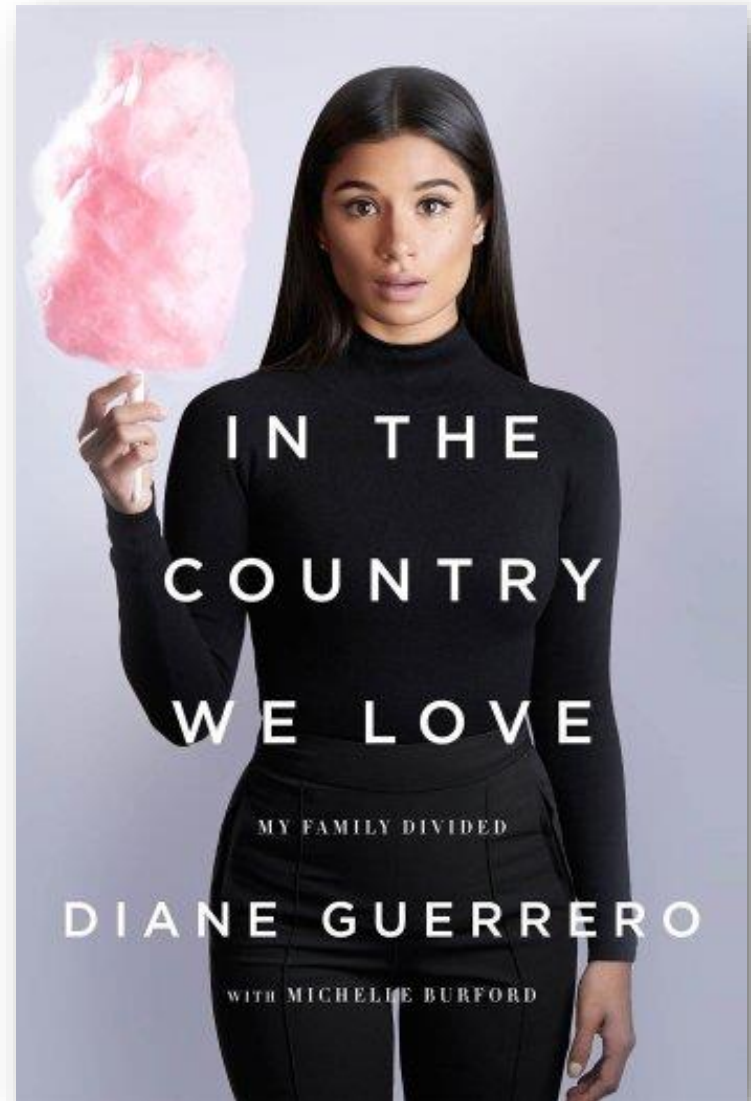
NON-FICTION

Hillbilly Elegy is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis—that of white working-class Americans. The decline of this group, a demographic of our country that has been slowly disintegrating over forty years, has been reported on with growing frequency and alarm, but has never before been written about as searingly from the inside. J. D. Vance tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hung around your neck.

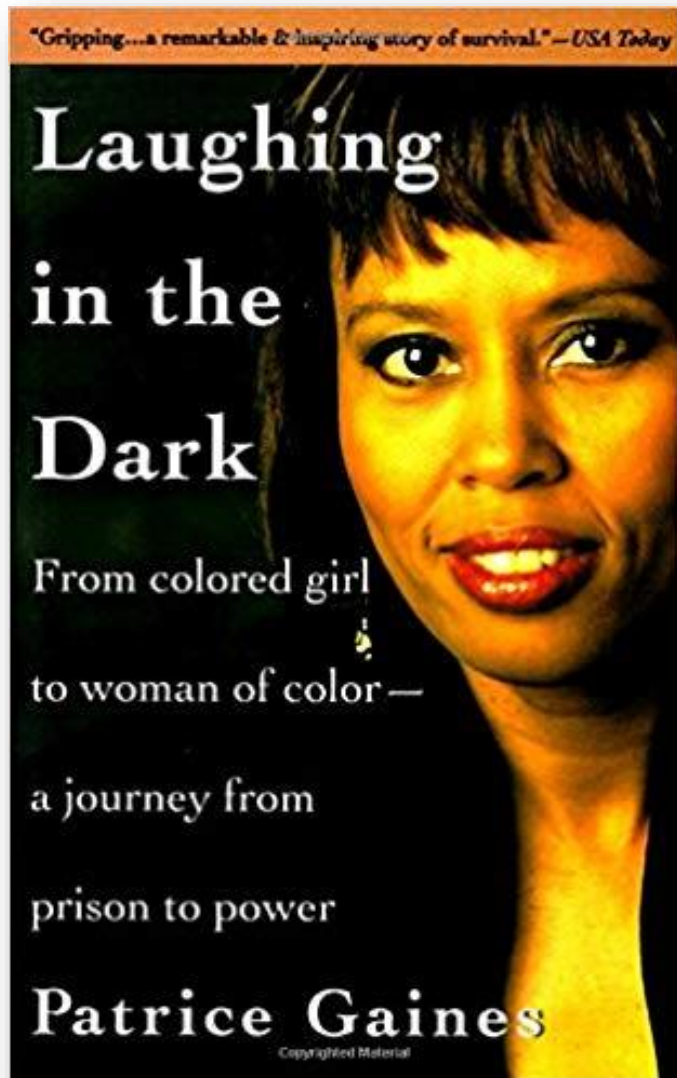


NON-FICTION

Diane Guerrero, the television actress from the megahit *Orange Is the New Black* and *Jane the Virgin*, was just 14 years old on the day her parents were detained and deported while she was at school. Born in the US, Guerrero was able to remain in the country and continue her education, depending on the kindness of family friends who took her in and helped her build a life and a successful acting career for herself, without the support system of her family. *In the Country We Love* is a moving, heartbreaking story of one woman's extraordinary resilience in the face of the nightmarish struggles of undocumented residents in this country.



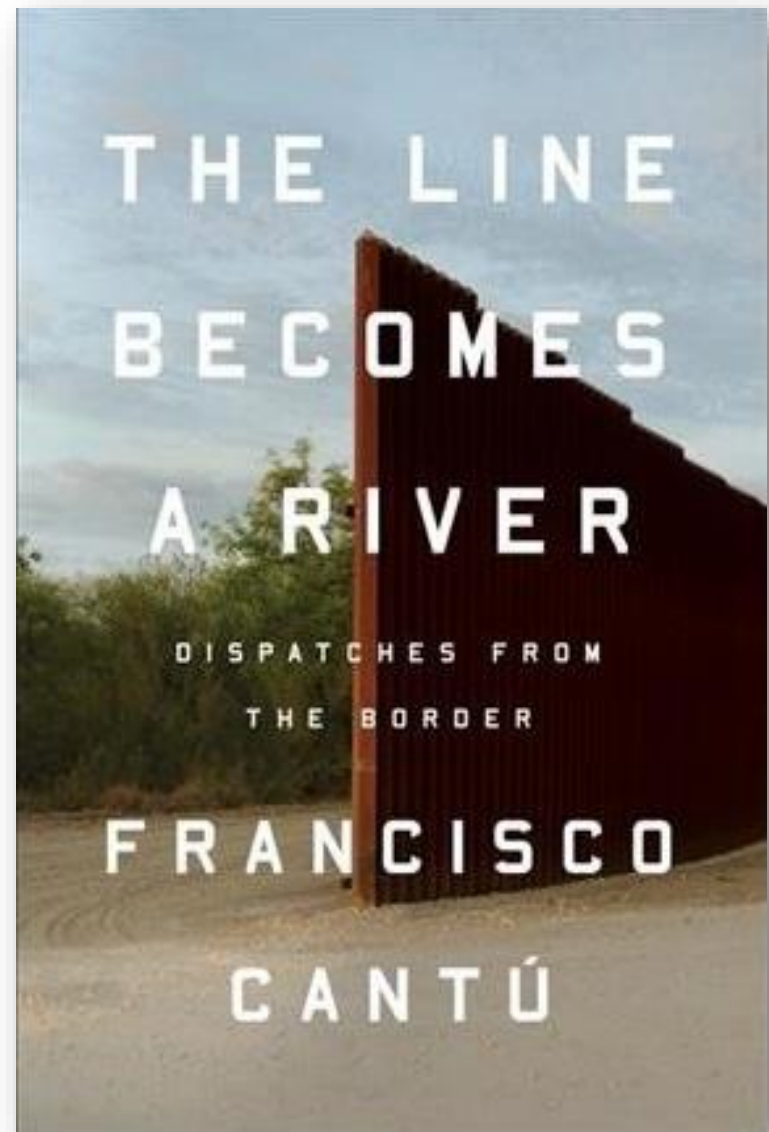
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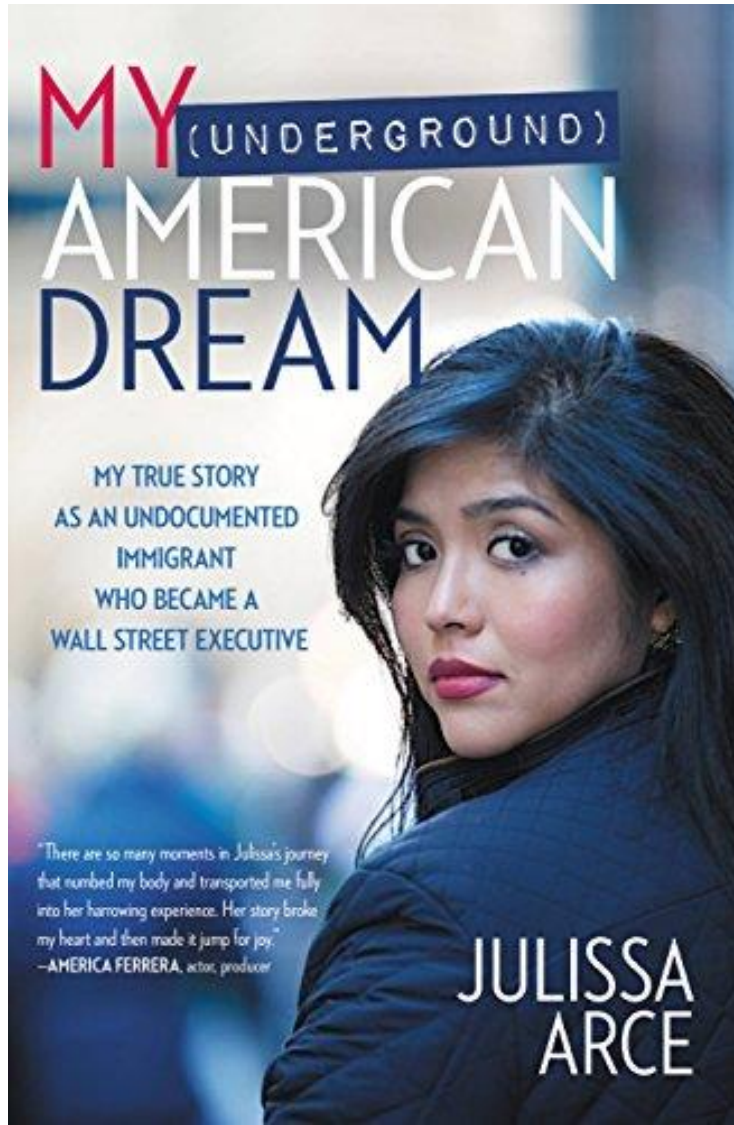
An award-winning Washington Post reporter explores the twisted path she traveled to find her place as a confident black female in a world that values whiteness and maleness. Here is a rich and insightful story of a life lived on the edge by a woman formerly preoccupied with pleasing everyone but herself.

NON-FICTION

For Francisco Cantú, the border is in the blood: his mother, a park ranger and daughter of a Mexican immigrant, raised him in the scrub-lands of the Southwest. Driven to understand the hard realities of the landscape he loves, Cantú joins the Border Patrol. He and his partners learn to track other humans under blistering sun and through frigid nights. They haul in the dead and deliver to detention those they find alive. Cantú discovers that the border has migrated with him, and now he must know the full extent of the violence it wreaks, on both sides of the line.



NON-FICTION



From the time she was brought to this country by her hardworking parents as a child, Arce-the scholarship winner, the honors college graduate, the young woman who climbed the ladder to become a vice president at Goldman Sachs-had secretly lived as an undocumented immigrant. In this surprising, at times heart-wrenching, but always inspirational personal story of struggle, grief, and ultimate redemption, Arce takes readers deep into the little-understood world of a generation of undocumented immigrants in the United States today- people who live next door, sit in your classrooms, work in the same office, and may very well be your boss.

NON-FICTION

THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY EDITION OF THE CLASSIC BESTSELLER

Nickel *and* Dimed



"CAPTIVATING...
PROMISE THAT YOU WILL
READ THIS EXPLOSIVE
LITTLE BOOK COVER TO
COVER AND PASS IT ON
TO ALL YOUR FRIENDS
AND RELATIVES."
— THE NEW YORK TIMES

ON (NOT) GETTING
BY IN AMERICA

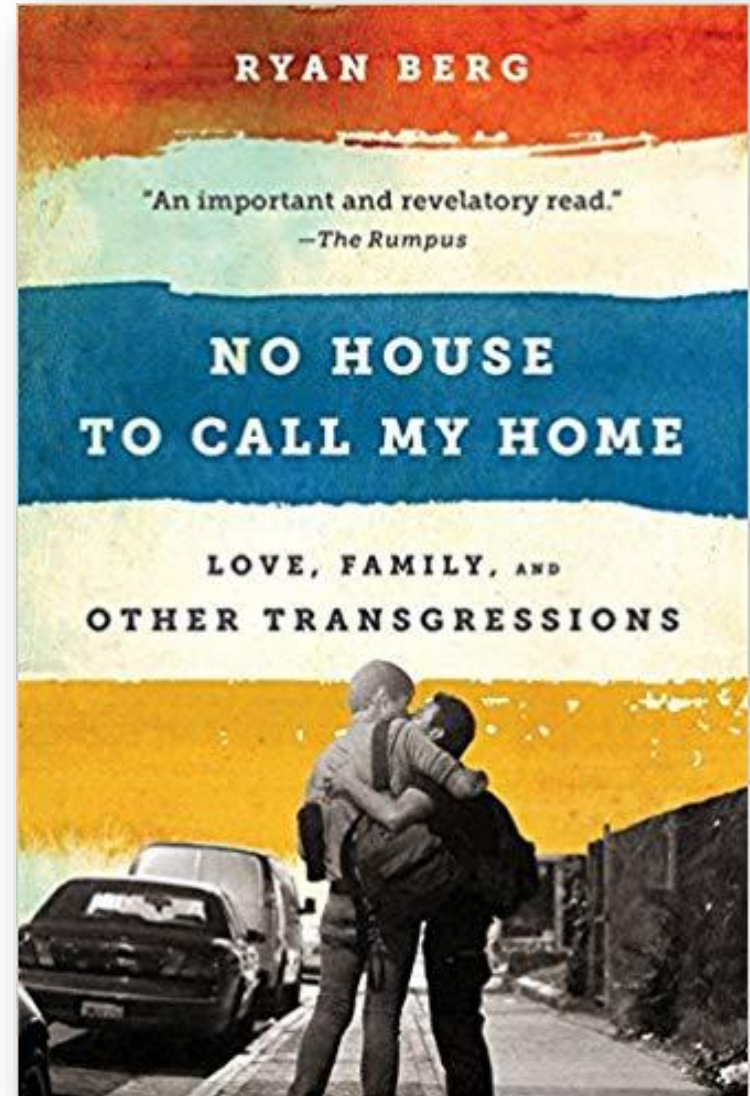
WITH A NEW AFTERWORD

BARBARA
EHRENREICH

Millions of Americans work full time, year round, for poverty-level wages. In 1998, Barbara Ehrenreich decided to join them. She was inspired in part by the rhetoric surrounding welfare reform, which promised that a job – any job – can be the ticket to a better life. But how does anyone survive, let alone prosper, on \$6 an hour? To find out, Ehrenreich left her home, took the cheapest lodgings she could find, and accepted whatever jobs she was offered. She worked as a waitress, a hotel maid, a cleaning woman, a nursing-home aide, and a Wal-Mart sales clerk. She lived in trailer parks and crumbling residential motels. Very quickly, she discovered that no job is truly "unskilled," that even the lowliest occupations require exhausting mental and muscular effort.

NON-FICTION

Focusing on the lives and loves of eight unforgettable youth, *No House to Call My Home* traces their efforts to break away from dangerous sex work and cycles of drug and alcohol abuse, and, in the process, to heal from years of trauma. From Bella's fervent desire for stability to Christina's irrepressible dreams of stardom, Berg uncovers the real lives behind the harrowing statistics: over 4,000 youth are homeless in New York City—43 percent of them identify as LGBTQ. Through these stories, Berg compels us to rethink the way we define privilege, identity, love, and family.



NON-FICTION

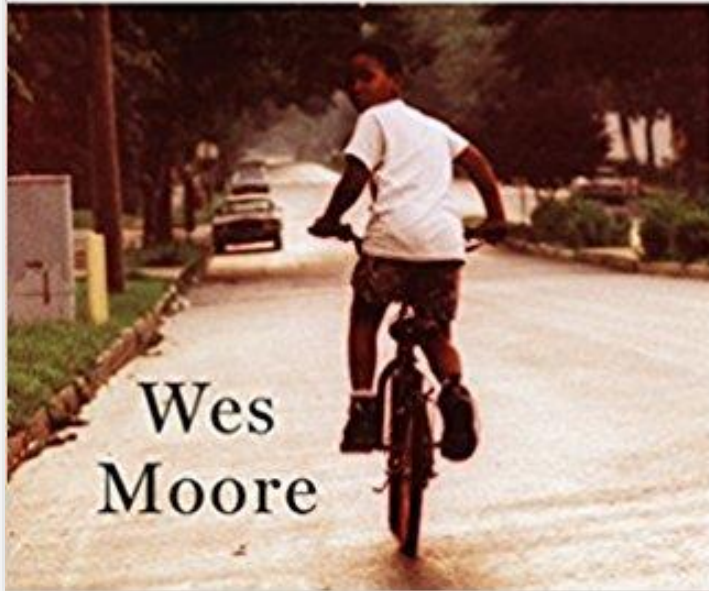
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

The Other Wes Moore

One Name, Two Fates

"Startling and revelatory . . . a rocketing real-life narrative" —*Baltimore Sun*

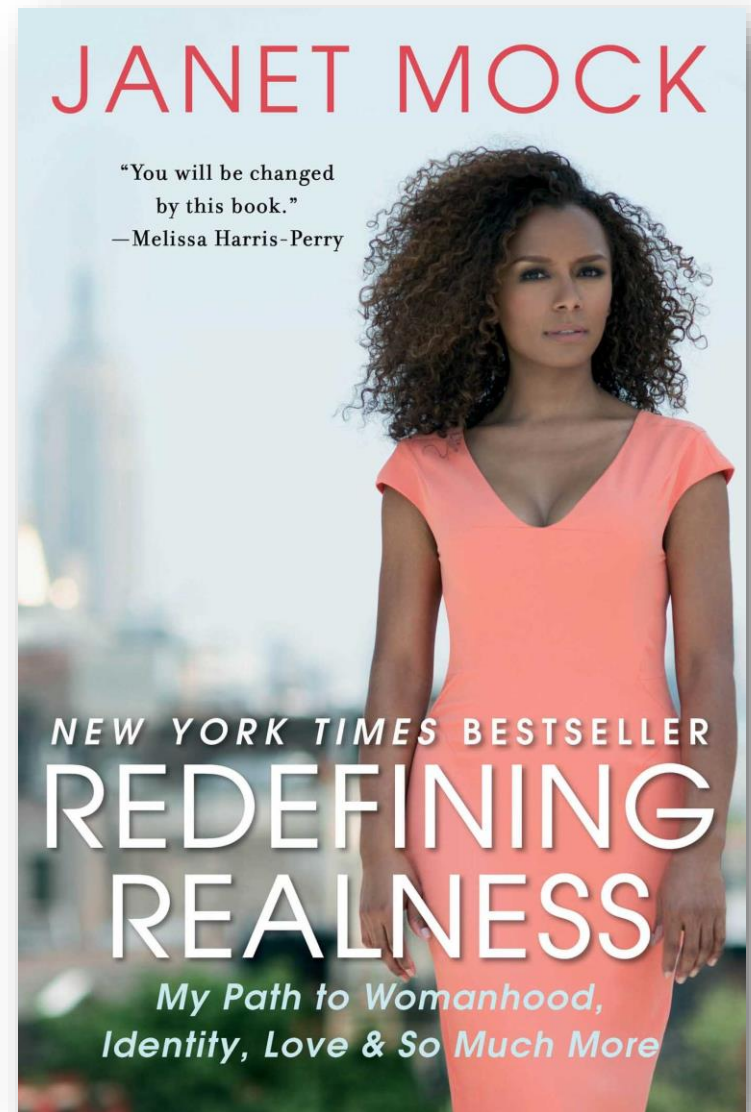
"A moving book . . . a call to arms." —*Chicago Tribune*



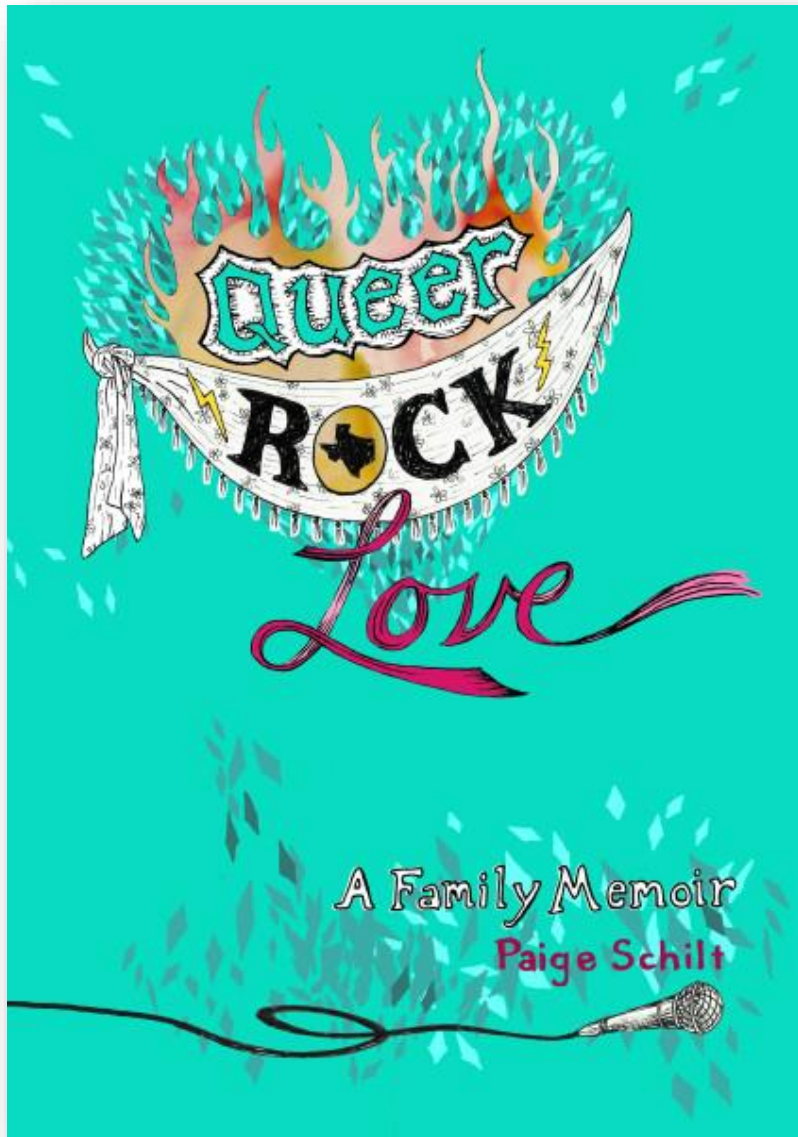
Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and had difficult childhoods; both hung out on street corners with their crews; both ran into trouble with the police. How, then, did one grow up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader, while the other ended up a convicted murderer serving a life sentence? Wes Moore, the author, sets out to answer this profound question. In alternating narratives that take readers from heart-wrenching losses to moments of surprising redemption, *The Other Wes Moore* tells the story of a generation of boys trying to find their way in a hostile world.

NON-FICTION

With unflinching honesty and moving prose, Janet Mock relays her experiences of growing up young, multiracial, poor, and trans in America, offering readers accessible language while imparting vital insight about the unique challenges and vulnerabilities of a marginalized and misunderstood population. Though undoubtedly an account of one woman's quest for self at all costs, *Redefining Realness* is a powerful vision of possibility and self-realization, pushing us all toward greater acceptance of one another—and of ourselves—showing as never before how to be unapologetic and real.

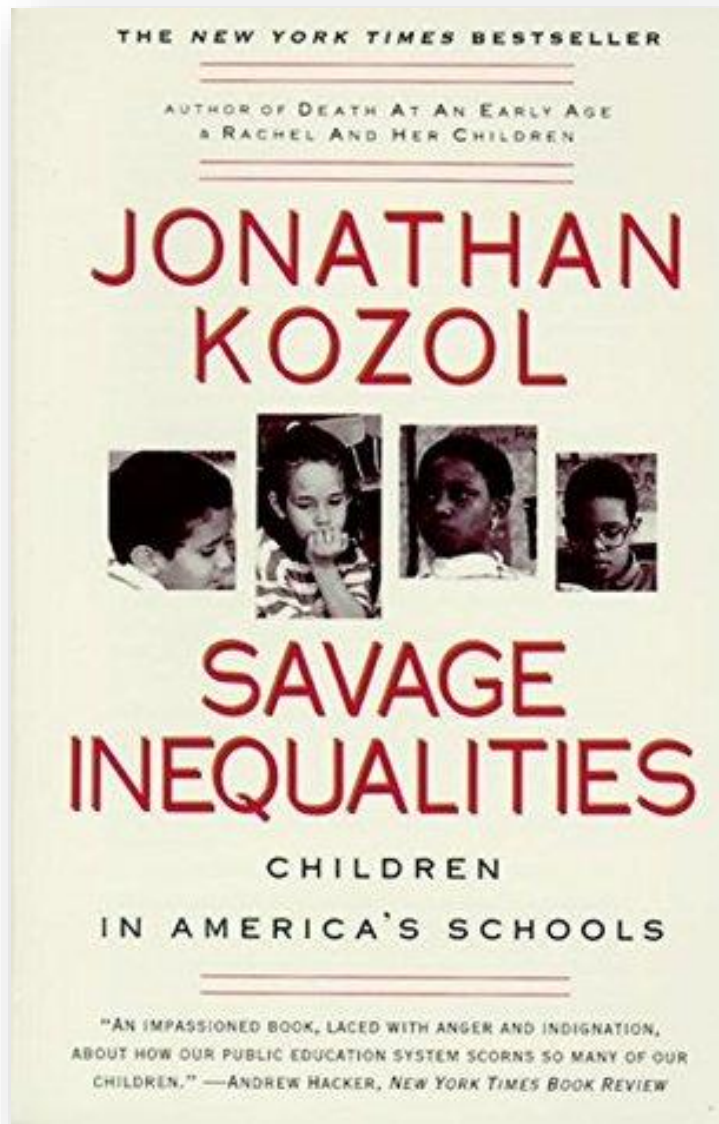


NON-FICTION



What happens when an introverted feminist academic tosses off her big black nerd glasses and succumbs to a brutal crush on a hard-rockin' Texas boygirl? Paige Schilt's journey introduces us to self-determined Southern belles, singing sperm donors, gay evangelicals, and tattooed subcultural kinfolk. Along the way, it challenges the notion that queer life belongs in cities, that family is always heteronormative, that gender can ever be neatly settled, and that a good romance ends with the honeymoon. Teaching us how to embrace fluidity and find meaning in life's messiness, *Queer Rock Love* reminds us that our trials and tribulations can be some of the most powerful sources of community and connection.

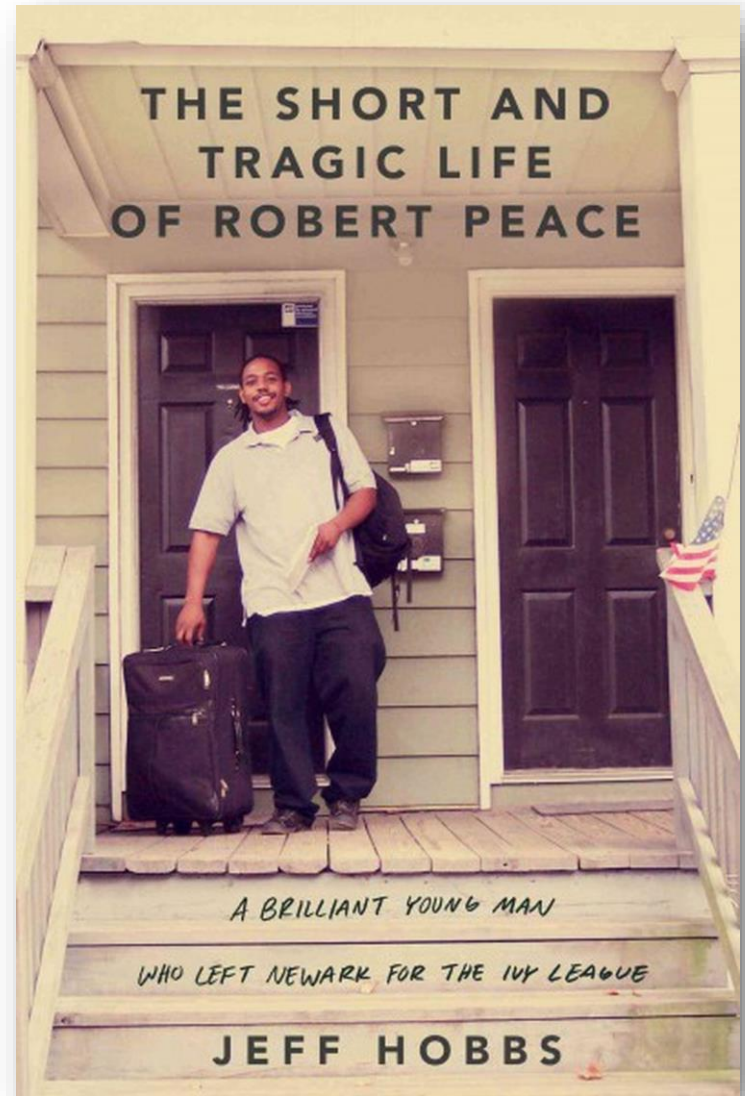
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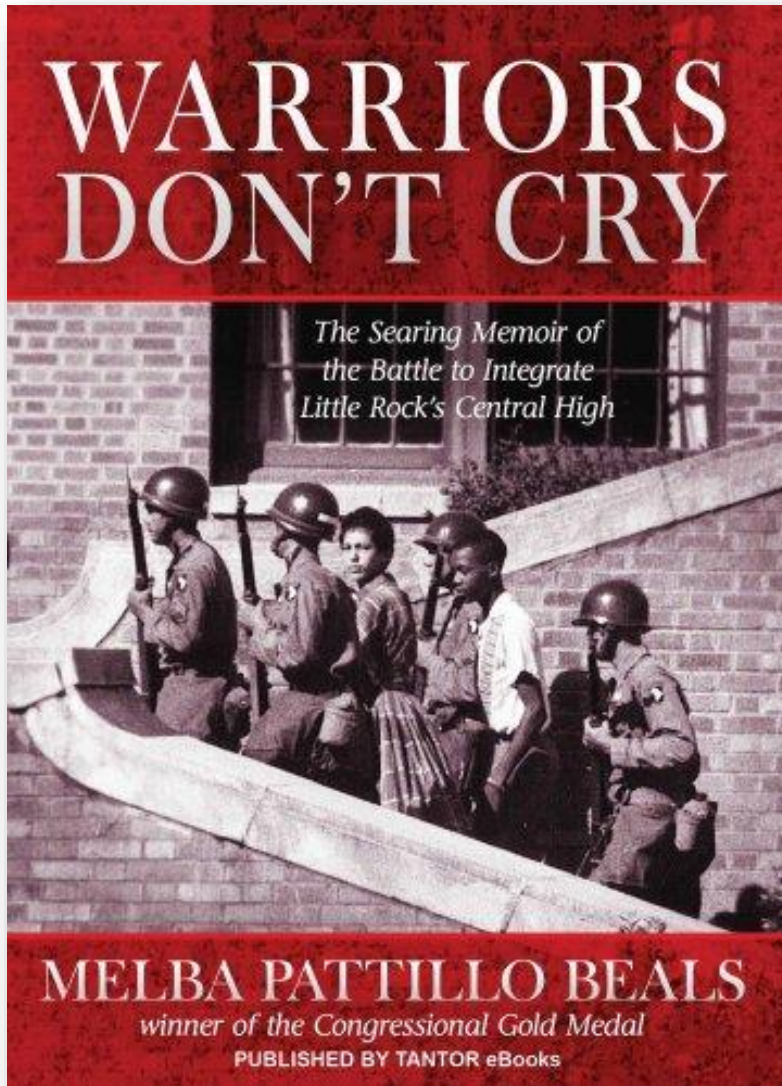
For two years, Jonathan Kozol visited schools in neighborhoods across the country, from Illinois to Washington D.C., and from New York to San Antonio. He spoke with teachers, principals, superintendents, and, most important, children. What he found was devastating. Not only were schools for rich and poor blatantly unequal, the gulf between the two extremes was widening—and it has widened since. The urban schools he visited were overcrowded, understaffed, and lacked the basic elements of learning. In *Savage Inequalities*, Kozol delivers a searing examination of the extremes of wealth and poverty and calls into question the reality of equal opportunity in our nation's schools.

NON-FICTION

A compelling and honest portrait of Robert's relationships—with his struggling mother, with his incarcerated father, with his teachers and friends—*The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace* encompasses the most enduring conflicts in America: race, class, drugs, community, imprisonment, education, family, friendship, and love. It's about the collision of two fiercely insular worlds—the ivy-covered campus of Yale University and the slums of Newark, New Jersey, and the difficulty of going from one to the other and then back again. It's about trying to live a decent life in America.



NON-FICTION



The landmark 1954 Supreme Court ruling, *Brown v. Board of Education*, brought the promise of integration to Little Rock, Arkansas, but it was hard-won for the nine black teenagers chosen to integrate Central High School in 1957. They ran a gauntlet flanked by a rampaging mob and a heavily armed Arkansas National Guard—opposition so intense that soldiers from the elite 101st Airborne Division were called in to restore order. For Melba Beals and her eight friends those steps marked their transformation into reluctant warriors—on a battlefield that helped shape the civil rights movement.

NON-FICTION

"Flint is a public health disaster.
But it was Dr. Mona, this caring, tough pediatrician turned detective,
who cracked the case." —Rachel Maddow

MONA HANNA-ATTISHA

WHAT THE EYES DON'T SEE

A Story of Crisis,
Resistance, and Hope in
an American City

What the Eyes Don't See is the inspiring story of how Dr. Mona—accompanied by an idiosyncratic team of researchers, parents, friends, and community leaders—proved that Flint's kids were exposed to lead and then fought her own government and a brutal backlash to expose that truth to the world. Paced like a scientific thriller, this book shows how misguided austerity policies, the withdrawal of democratic government, and callous bureaucratic indifference placed an entire city at risk. And at the center of the story is Dr. Mona herself—an immigrant, doctor, scientist, and mother whose family's activist roots inspired her pursuit of justice.

NON-FICTION



Non-fiction

Sub-category: Graphic Non-fiction

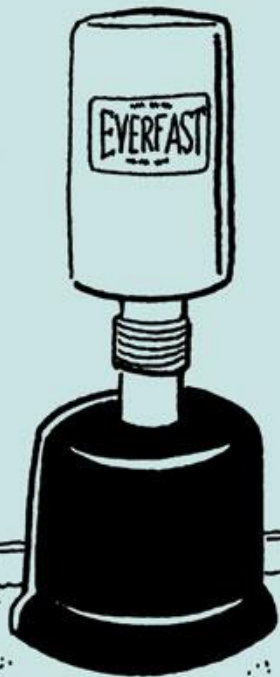
Graphic novels share elements of prose, screenwriting, and visual arts. See the pictures first, and then read what's on the page.

Then I got a grant working with church groups back in New Orleans.



I was so upset about what was going on here, with all the new development, and my people still scattered all over the place.

But it was obvious I could do more good here than being bitter and complaining about it back in Baton Rouge.



Just recently I was able to move back here to my city. And now that I'm back, I feel better. More hopeful somehow.



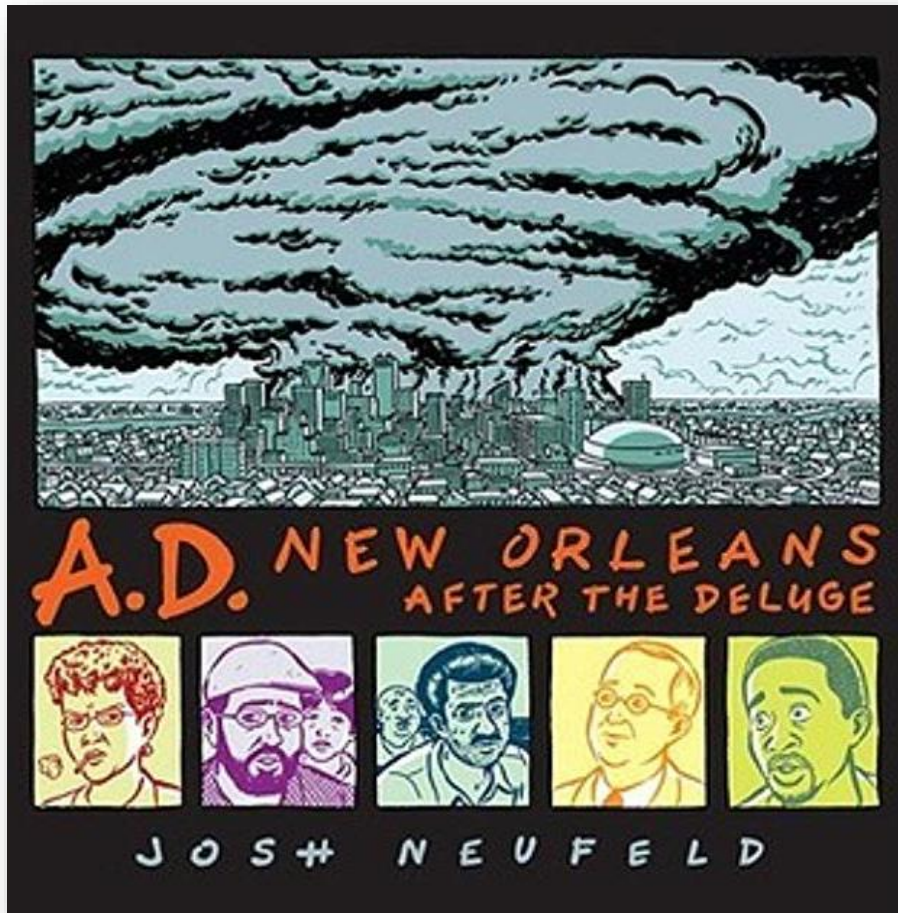
In spite of it all, even though the place will never be the same-- I am home.



But it's not over.

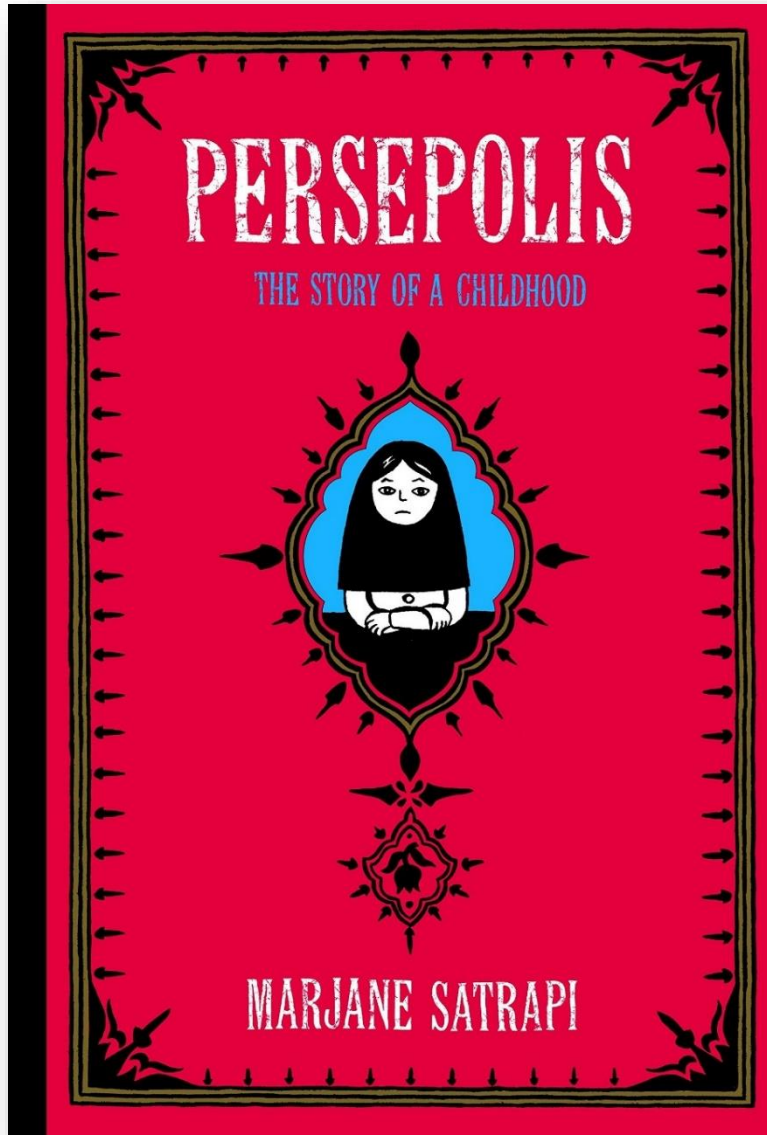
We're not all home yet.





A.D. follows six New Orleanians from the hours before Katrina struck to its horrific aftermath. We watch as they make the wrenching decision between staying and evacuating. We see them coping not only with the outcome of their own decisions but also with those made by politicians, police, and others like themselves — decisions that drastically affect their lives, but over which they have no control.

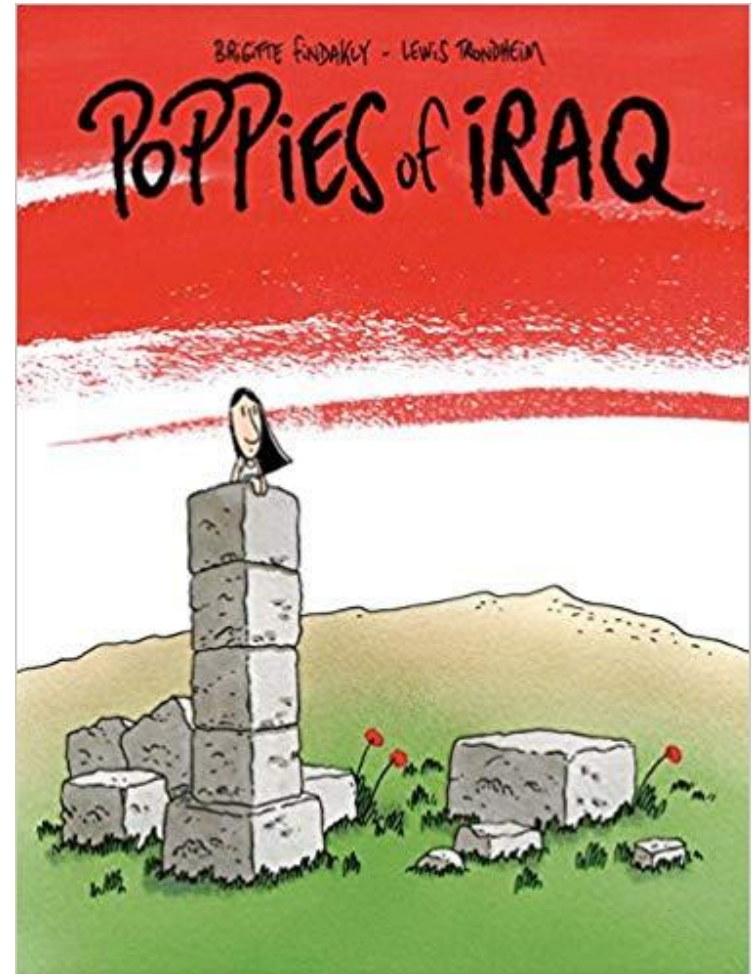
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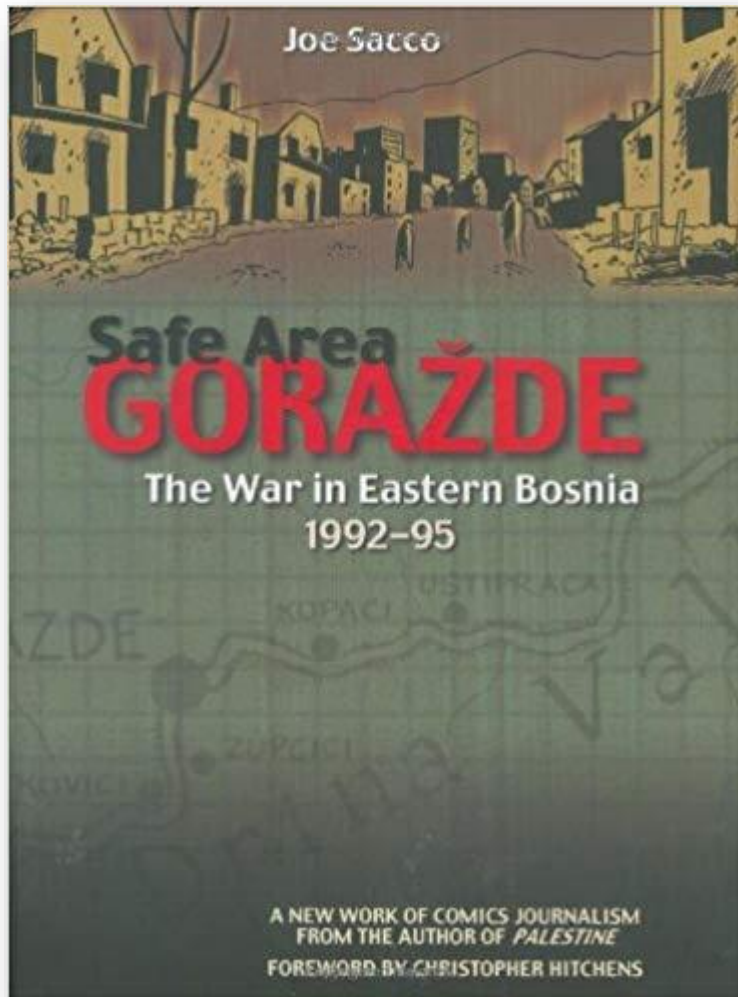
Persepolis paints an unforgettable portrait of daily life in Iran and of the bewildering contradictions between home life and public life. Marjane's child's-eye view of dethroned emperors, state-sanctioned whippings, and heroes of the revolution allows us to learn as she does the history of this fascinating country and of her own extraordinary family. Intensely personal, profoundly political, and wholly original, *Persepolis* is at once a story of growing up and a reminder of the human cost of war and political repression. It shows how we carry on, with laughter and tears, in the face of absurdity. [Translated from the French]

NON-FICTION

Poppies of Iraq is Brigitte Findakly's nuanced tender chronicle of her relationship with her homeland Iraq, co-written and drawn by her husband, the acclaimed cartoonist Lewis Trondheim. In spare and elegant detail, they share memories of her middle class childhood touching on cultural practices, the education system, Saddam Hussein's state control, and her family's history as Orthodox Christians in the Arab world. *Poppies of Iraq* is intimate and wide-ranging; the story of how one can become separated from one's homeland and still feel intimately connected yet ultimately estranged. [Translated from the French]



NON-FICTION



Sacco (the critically-acclaimed author of Palestine) spent five months in Bosnia in 1996, immersing himself in the human side of life during wartime, researching stories that are rarely found in conventional news coverage. The book focuses on the Muslim-held enclave of Gorazde, which was besieged by Bosnian Serbs during the war.

NON-FICTION

