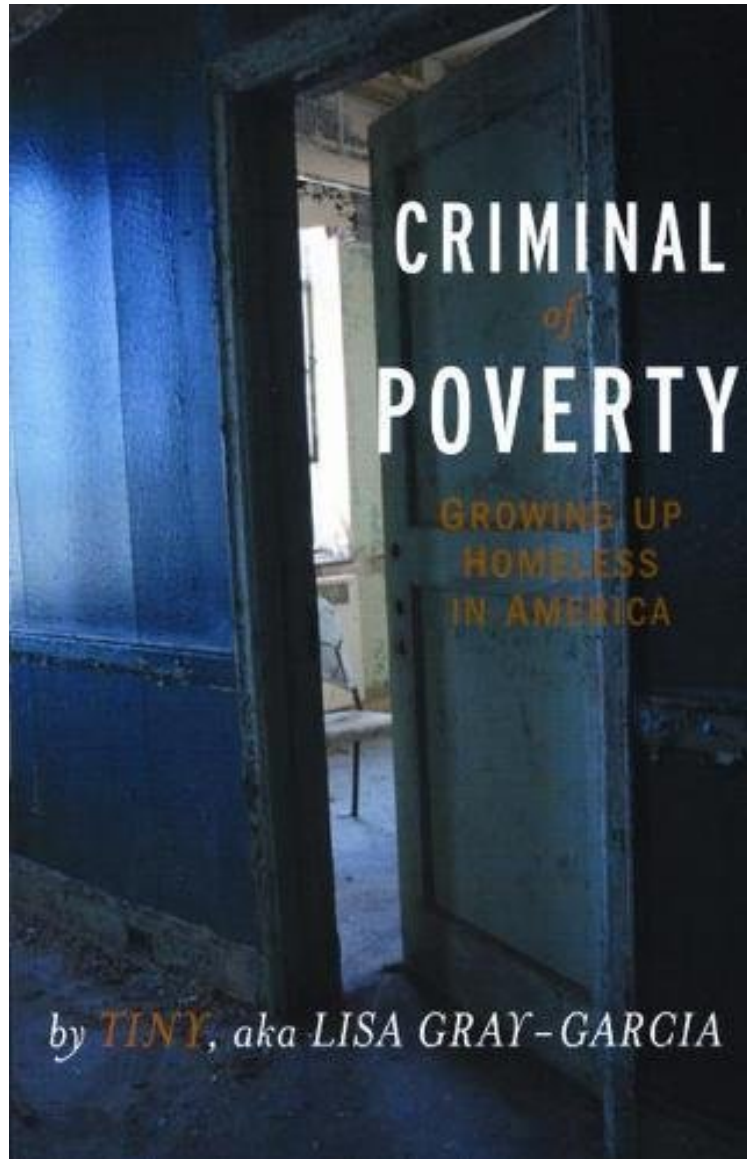


[Mobile ebook] Criminal of Poverty: Growing Up Homeless in America

Criminal of Poverty: Growing Up Homeless in America

Tiny aka Lisa Gray-Garcia

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Tiny aka Lisa Gray-Garcia : Criminal of Poverty: Growing Up Homeless in America before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Criminal of Poverty: Growing Up Homeless in America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book should be required reading for every American. By Louis L. Akin I bought this book to read on a five-hour airplane flight. I started reading it waiting to board the airplane and finished it as we were landing on my final destination's tarmac. That's something I seldom, if ever, have done. The

book is well written, but more importantly, substantively, it is a 220 volt read all the way through. As a PI who has dealt off and on with street people for 30 years I thought I knew a lot about them, but Tiny put me inside their heads and hearts, and that was a shocking experience. I have purchased extra copies of the book to hand out to friends. That's also something I seldom do, but I want Tiny's voice, the voices of "los pobres", to be heard, and Tiny's book is their voice. Bless her for writing it.

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. America's Other War
By BlackHorseMedia
In "Criminal Of Poverty," Lisa Gray-Garcia tells a tale that will warm your heart and break it at the same time. She describes the undeclared War On The Poor being waged by government agencies and corporations, and that is enabled by the apathy of those who have yet to stand in line for aid. This book dispels the myth that all homeless people are lazy, drug addicted, or mentally ill. A very interesting and dynamic tale, this book should be read by anyone interested in the real people behind the veil of poverty.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Tiny is an amazing person
By James Generic
Lisa "Tiny" Grey-Garcia graced our bookstore in Philadelphia with her presence and incredible thoughts. She came off as incredibly intelligent, very creative, and a very likable person. She is the founder of POOR magazine, dedicated to the poor when all the other magazines seem dedicated to people who don't need anymore dedication (rockstars, politicians, actors, etc.). When at the Shoe, she talked about strength through organization and treating people in that organization like family, even when you want to butt heads with them. She talked about strength through art and how even in a life of constant struggle, you never give up, especially when the entire culture is set against you (peppering her speech with phrases like DWP, or "driving while poor", underlining her crystal clear thoughts on our society). She had a beautiful picture of her mother, Mama Dee, who she was close with her entire life. I had to read her book after listening to her speak. In "Criminal of Poverty: Growing Up Homeless in America", Garcia lays out her origins through telling the story of her grandmother who immigrated from Ireland and had to make hard choices, her mother Dee, her wealthy father who left them to fend for themselves, and finally herself. Her mother could not work a job because of disability, so they two eked a living on their own wits. The story traces Tiny and Mama Dee growing as legends in Venice Beach, California, telling their stories and making it by through art and selling t-shirts, and eventually taking their "po' art" up to San Francisco. It's a story of constantly being evicted, messed with by police, driving from one place to the next trying to find a place to stay, and of all else, never leaving each other behind no matter what. The "art of homelessness" is the only way they can truly get by in an insane world where everything that can go wrong, does. Garcia helps found POOR magazine, and through the grit of her teeth and really amazing talent, she is able to get POOR magazine afloat. It becomes a project that empowers people to be great organizers and activists in fights for survival, housing, jobs, expression, and dignity. Her mother and many others are at her side the entire time, and it really attests to what one can do when your back is up against the wall. It illustrates plainly how if you are poor in America, you basically have no rights in practice and how you are treated like an animal by society. Tiny doesn't seek to "rise above this," she seeks to rise everyone up and fight for real tangible gains for real people who need them. That's what's really great about this book. You can really tell that the author and people in POOR magazine have ability above nothing else to fight and fight well for what's right. I probably didn't mention that Tiny is a really gifted writer, too. You can tell by her writing that she's been doing art for a longtime. She chooses her words really well and the book reads like stuff that happened decades ago happened minutes before. You really won't be disappointed if you pick this one up. Just awesome.

Eleven-year-old Lisa becomes her mother's primary support when they face the prospect of homelessness. As Dee, a single mother, struggles with the demons of her own childhood of neglect and abuse, Lisa has to quickly assume the role of an adult in an attempt to keep some stability in their lives. Dee and Tiny ultimately become underground celebrities in San Francisco, squatting in storefronts and performing the art of homelessness. Their story, filled with black humor and incisive analysis, illuminates the roots of poverty, the criminalization of poor families, and their struggle for survival.

"Challenges the reader to let go of clichés and catch phrases about the poor and homeless . . ." -- devorah major, author of "where river meets ocean" and "Brown Glass Windows"
"If your heart is unmoved when you finish this memoir, then it's made of stone." -- Ayelet Waldman, author of "Love and Other Impossible Pursuits"
"Lays bare the devastating effects of inheriting a life of poverty, as well the real redemption and power in finding your voice." -- Michelle Tea, author of "Rose of No Man's Land" and "Valencia"
"She opens up an important window onto a reality looked upon by many but truly seen by few . . ." -- Piri Thomas, author of "Down These Mean Streets"
"We are not the same after reading this hellish tale of a young girl's struggle to survive." -- Yannick Murphy, author of "Here They Come"
About the Author
Lisa Gray-Garcia became homeless at the age of 11. She is the founder of POOR Magazine, a literary and visual arts magazine, and Poor News Network (PNN), a monthly radio show focusing on issues of poverty and racism. Her journalism has been featured in Common Dreams, the SF Chronicle, as well as many other local and national media outlets.