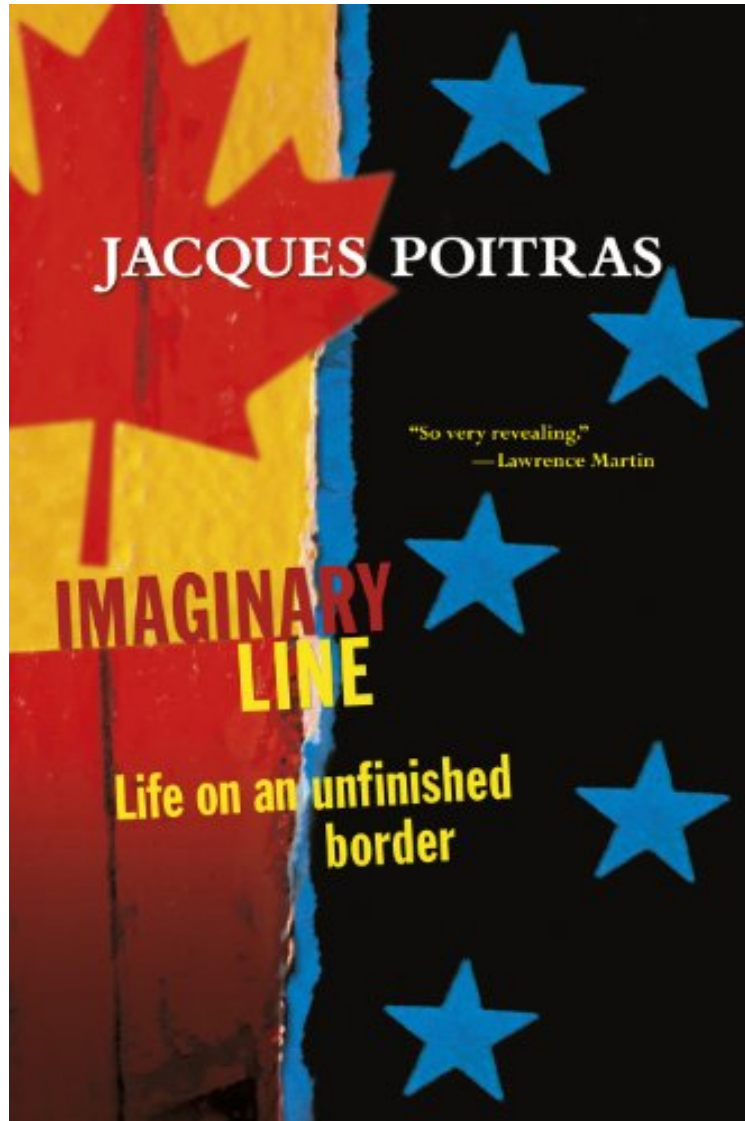


(Read free) Imaginary Line: Life on an Unfinished Border

Imaginary Line: Life on an Unfinished Border

Jacques Poitras

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Jacques Poitras : Imaginary Line: Life on an Unfinished Border before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Imaginary Line: Life on an Unfinished Border:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Imaginary lineBy Edward O. WolcottA good book on the bureaucratic bumbling and idiocy along the Canadian/US border in Maine. The bureaucrats in the border patrol and customs treat this as though it was part of the border in Arizona, not a border that people have done business over for a century.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy LINE R RECHHOLTZfor a friend

Shortlisted, Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing and Democracy 250 Atlantic Book Award for Historical Writing
Once, a single francophone settlement shared both sides of the Saint John River, until a political trade-off between countries split it down the middle. From that inauspicious start, the Maine-New Brunswick border, the first boundary to be drawn between the two nations, has served as a microcosm for Canada-U.S. relations. For centuries, friends, lovers, schemers and smugglers have reached across the line. Now, post-9/11, mounting political paranoia has led to a sharp divide, disrupting the lives and welfare of nearby residents. An elderly Canadian couple's driveway touches the border, leading to a Kafkaesque overreaction by Homeland Security. The Tea Party political movement advocates complete border shutdown. Once friendly neighbors have become increasingly isolated from each other. In this timely exploration, Jacques Poitras travels the length of the border, from Madawaska and Aroostook counties through Passamaquoddy Bay to a tiny island still in dispute to uncover the arbitrarily drawn line that shouldn't be there, almost wasn't there, and can be difficult to find even when it is there. The stakes are high as New Brunswick and Maine re-imagine their relationship for the 21st century and communities strive to stay together despite the best efforts of parochial politicians, protectionists, and overzealous border officials.

"If you like to explore the nooks and crannies of the Canada-US border, if you know the idiosyncrasies of more than four border crossings (the Ambassador Bridge and the Peace Bridge don't count), and if you think that the National Film Board's *Between Friends/Entre Amis* (1976) is one of the great coffee-table books (and cultural statements) of all time, then *Imaginary Line: Life on an Unfinished Border* deserves a place on your nightstand." (Globe and Mail 2013-01-09)"By highlighting what makes this part of the world unique, Poitras brings alive the quirks of communities whose cross-border heritage defies narratives of identity in both Canada and the United States." (Canadian Geographic 2013-01-09)"A very impressive volume. Not an easy subject to tackle but wonderfully researched and so very revealing. Canada-U.S. relations at the regional level have rarely been so expertly explored." (Lawrence Martin 2016-10-01)
From the Inside Flap
At one time a single settlement shared both sides of the Saint John River, until a political trade-off split it down the middle. From that inauspicious start, the Maine-New Brunswick border, the first boundary to be drawn between Canada and the U.S., has served as a microcosm for relations between the two nations. For centuries, friends, lovers, schemers, and smugglers have reached across the line. Now, post 9/11, political paranoia has led to a sharp divide, disrupting the lives of residents caught in the middle of world events. An elderly Canadian couple's driveway touches the border, leading to a Kafkaesque overreaction by homeland Security. The Tea Party calls for complete border shutdown. Once friendly neighbours have become increasingly isolated from each other. In this timely exploration, Jacques Poitras travels the length of the border from Madawaska and Aroostook counties through Passamaquoddy Bay to a tiny island still in dispute to uncover an arbitrary line that shouldn't be there, almost wasn't there, and can be difficult to find even when it is there. The stakes are high as New Brunswick and Maine re-imagine their relationship for the 21st century.
From the Back Cover
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