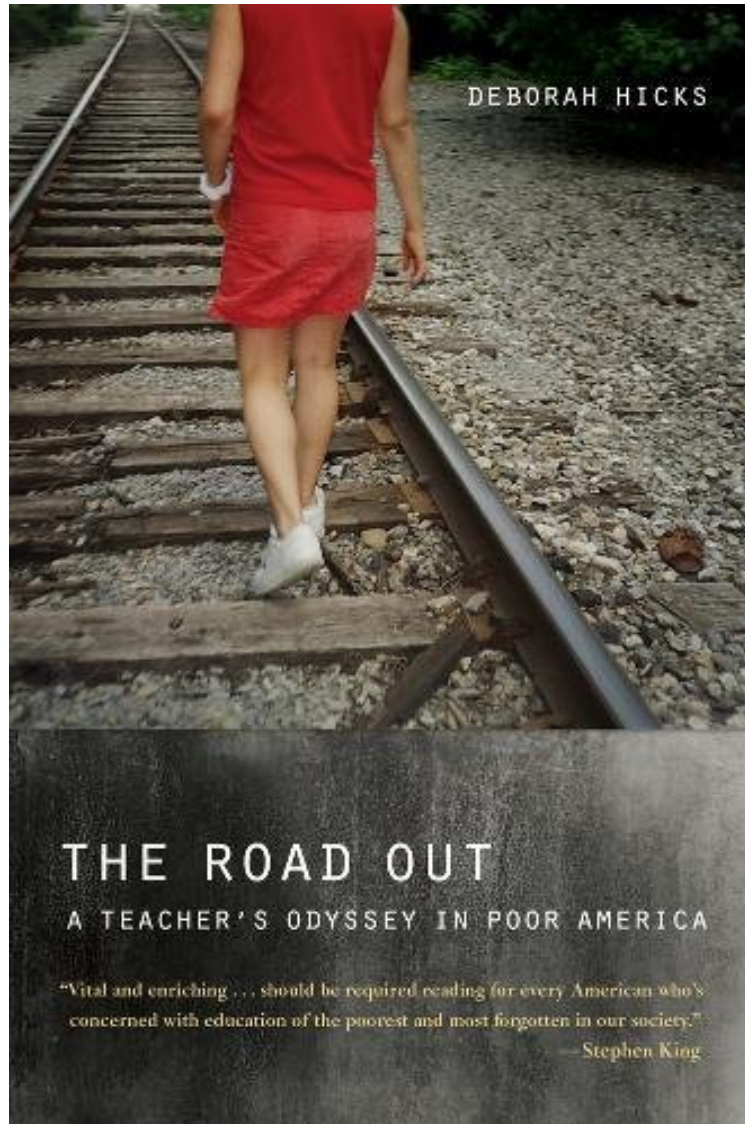


[Download] The Road Out: A Teacher's Odyssey in Poor America

The Road Out: A Teacher's Odyssey in Poor America

Deborah Hicks

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Deborah Hicks : The Road Out: A Teacher's Odyssey in Poor America before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Road Out: A Teacher's Odyssey in Poor America:

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. a compelling read By Jude The Road Out vividly brings to life the stories of adolescent girls in Cincinnati's Appalachian ghetto. Their stories are little known, but they deserve to be famous. Reading The Road Out we come to understand in human terms the breadth and depth of problems confronting the lives of the unknown poor: parents too self-absorbed or drug addicted to raise their children, schools lacking resources or unable to see their students' potential, neighborhoods that offer those who live there little more than drugs

and fights. The author ties the girls' histories to her own struggle to redeem herself from the poverty of circumstance and opportunity of her own Appalachian childhood. The prose is lively and page turning. For those who think education is all about raising test scores, Hicks illustrates how literature, the pleasure of reading, can provide a road out, a stimulus for wanting to learn. The girls are heartbreaking, but they're also so very alive--smart, sassy, resilient, and surprising. It's a book to savor and remember. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Road Out by Deborah Hicks By Marianne M. Davis I cannot choose the blue star for "I hate it", but also I hesitate to choose "it's okay". Deborah should think about writing novels. She writes well. She has demonstrated her ability to describe settings. I am not so sure that her work with those girls of poverty served to assist them in coping with the realities of their situation. I have to think that if she had had more knowledge of how to lead a group of pubescent young women on issues of absence of mothering and their dawning sexuality, they could have been more wary of their chosen ways of socialization. I wonder if she had enlightened them on ways to prevent early pregnancy would have improved their chances to "get out". Research data indicate that early pregnancy is one of the factors of cause in perpetuating poverty. Had Deborah achieved a degree in counseling teens prior to this longitudinal study perhaps the results would have been different. The title told me that the book would show how she led the girls out of their community and into a "better life". I do not think that the book achieved that goal. I believe that all that happened was that the girls repeated the pattern set by the values and expectations of the community. I was left with the sinking feeling that her years with those girls failed to produce the results that she thought they would. It would seem that the goals she tried to help the girls set for themselves evaporated in the heat of teenage passion! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Aisha.O.K Great book

Can one teacher truly make a difference in her students lives when everything is working against them? Can a love for literature and learning save the most vulnerable of youth from a life of poverty? The Road Out is a gripping account of one teachers journey of hope and discovery with her students girls growing up poor in a neighborhood that was once home to white Appalachian workers, and is now a ghetto. Deborah Hicks, set out to give one group of girls something she never had: a first-rate education, and a chance to live their dreams. A contemporary tragedy is brought to life as she leads us deep into the worlds of Adriana, Blair, Mariah, Elizabeth, Shannon, Jessica, and Alicia? seven girls coming of age in poverty. This is a moving story about girls who have lost their childhoods, but who face the streets torments with courage and resiliency. I want out, says 10-year-old Blair, a tiny but tough girl who is extremely poor and yet deeply imaginative and precocious. Hicks tries to convey to her students a sense of the power of fiction and of sisterhood to get them through the toughest years of adolescence. But by the time they're sixteen, eight years after the start of the class, the girls are experiencing the collision of their youthful dreams with the pitfalls of growing up in chaotic single-parent families amid the deteriorating cityscape. Yet even as they face disappointments and sometimes despair, these girls cling to their desire for a better future. The authors own life story from a poorly educated girl in a small mountain town to a Harvard-educated writer, teacher, and social advocate infuses this chronicle with a message of hope.

Its become a standard book and movie trope: An idealistic teacher walks into a classroom of hardened, at-risk students and strives to reach them. But the outlines of the story, while familiar, can still surprise and inspire.