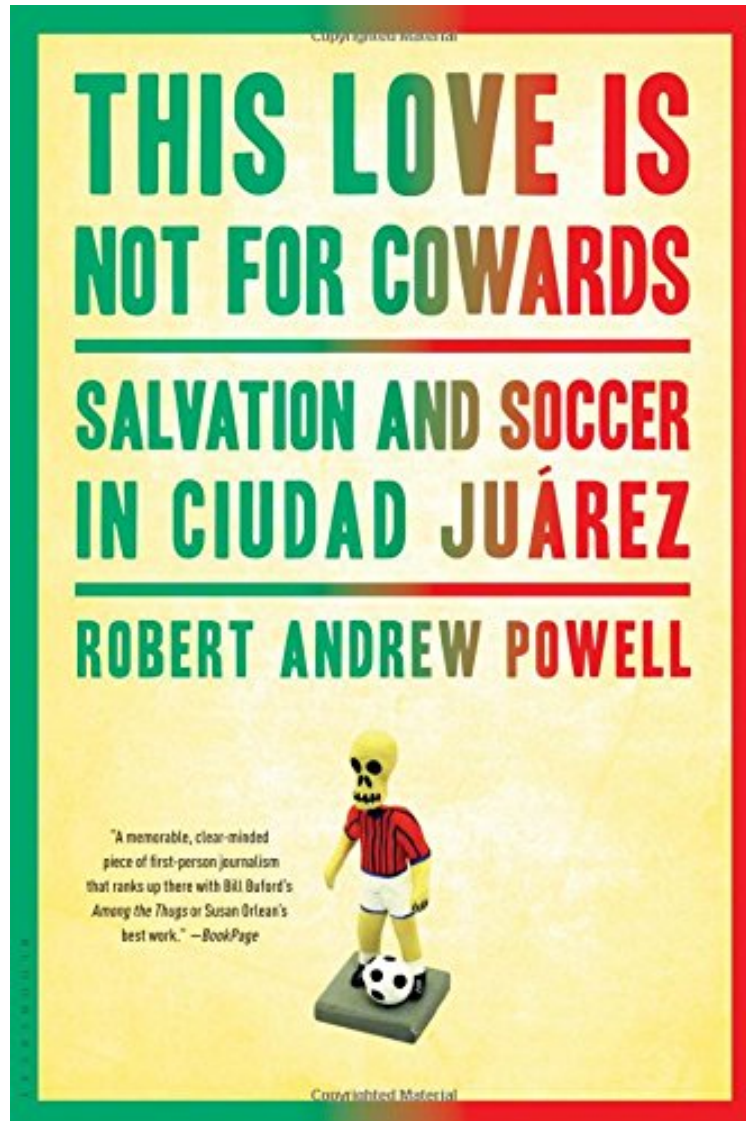


(Download) This Love Is Not For Cowards: Salvation and Soccer in Ciudad Jurez

This Love Is Not For Cowards: Salvation and Soccer in Ciudad Jurez

Robert Andrew Powell
ebooks / Download PDF / *ePub / DOC / audiobook



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#341383 in Books 2013-04-09 2013-04-09Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 .32 x .72 x 5.67l, .62 #File Name: 1608197182272 pages | File size: 37.Mb

Robert Andrew Powell : This Love Is Not For Cowards: Salvation and Soccer in Ciudad Jurez before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised This Love Is Not For Cowards: Salvation and Soccer in Ciudad Jurez:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great Book! Deeper than just a soccer season in MexicoBy Howard HellerI choose to read this book based upon the author's previous book, "We Own This Game," which I thoroughly

enjoyed. The previous book's subject was the culture of little league football in south Florida. Living in south Florida with several friends involved with little league football, the book was an obvious choice for me to read. Although, I have little interest in Mexico, less interest in soccer, and even less interest in Mexican soccer, I quickly purchased the book based upon my previous experience with the author's work. As I expected, this book does follow the Juarez soccer team for a season. The author does introduce some players, describe some soccer action, and for me most interestingly, provides the reader with insights to what goes on behind the scenes of a professional team that the casual fans does not usually get to experience, such as locker room speeches, team dinners, and practices. It is no secret that the team is struggling and is clearly failing. However, this is not the focus of the book. The author spends just as much time describing the city of Juarez and the adverse living conditions there...murders, drug trade, crime, lack of jobs. This is where the book is not so much a "sports" book, but can be considered more of a cultural/sociological book. The author describes the tremendous level of adversity the citizens of Juarez are living with -- their resiliency to live "normal" lives. One of which is the importance of the soccer team and supporting the soccer team, even though the team is dismal. Over time, the author comes to learn that each individual finds a way to survive, be it clinging to dreams they know will never come true, drugs, moving away, or simply becoming desensitized to it all. Through the journey, the author synthesizes well the slow death of the team, living in the heart of this dangerous city, and his personal struggle to find a way within himself to survive the harsh, dangerous, adverse conditions without losing who he is. In general, I found the book flowed well and was quick to read. I did find myself wanting to get to the last page, because I needed to know how the story turned out in the end. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. What is Life Really Like in Juarez? Read this book to understand. By John VI have a strong interest in the borderlands to begin with and my interest has peaked with the rise of the violence in CD Juarez and all of Mexico. I have read Grillo, Gibler, Longmire, Bowden, and Campbell's works on the violence and they were all excellent in helping me understand the politics and theories surrounding the situation in Mexico. However, Powell's book, *This Love is Not For Cowards*, gave me something that I really craved to which the other books left me longing and that is a view of what life is really like for citizens of the world's most dangerous city. Powell moved to Juarez at the height of the drug war to cover the Indios, the City's soccer team, which has been promoted to the highest level of the Mexican soccer league. In doing so, Powell bonds with players, fans, coaches, and team management going to all their home games and even accompanying them on the road. The team becomes a metaphor for the City itself, bursting onto the scene then spiraling downward in a series of losses that guarantees relegation back to the minor leagues. The City of Juarez follows a similar pattern from an economic powerhouse with no unemployment to a City seemingly going through death throes. Or is it? As the book illustrates, people still go out to restaurants and bars, celebrate children's birthday at McDonalds, fall in love/get married, jog, walk their dogs, and support their soccer team to the end. By reading this book, we find that people love their soccer team and their city despite the pervasiveness of death. We see the city through his eyes as someone who chose to live there, renting an apartment and fully engaging in daily life. Our media paints a picture of Juarez as a town that shuts completely down at night with residents in bunker mode for fear of being shot. And while some of that occurs, we still see people living their lives and that is the strength of the book. Powell does provide a good background of the drug war and who the major players are in the City. He touches upon some of the more shocking headlines such as the student massacre, the murder of American consulate employees, and the car bombs. His chapter about the women murders is especially powerful in helping the reader understand some of the debate over the origin of killings. But in the end, the book is about how this soccer team, the Indios, provide a diversion for the City in desperate need for something good. You'll meet interesting people and players and hopefully get a sense that not all is doom and gloom in Juarez. I highly recommend this book whether or not you are a soccer fan. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. *Personas Buenas* By Shawn I loved this book. Where else can you get a glimpse of Mexican Primera soccer and Mexican Culture? So much respect for the people of this book. #Respeto

More than ten people are murdered every day in Ciudad Jurez, a city about the size of Philadelphia. As Mexico has descended into a feudal narco-state-one where cartels, death squads, the army, and local police all fight over billions of dollars in profits from drug and human trafficking-the border city of Jurez has been hit hardest of all. And yet, more than a million people still live there. They even love their impoverished city, proudly repeating its mantra: "Amor por Jurez." Nothing exemplifies the spirit and hope of Juarenses more than the Indios, the city's beloved but hard-luck soccer team. Sport may seem a meager distraction, but to many it's a lifeline. It drew charismatic American midfielder Marco Vidal back from Dallas to achieve the athletic dreams of his Mexican father. Team owner Francisco Ibarra and Mayor Jos Reyes Ferriz both thrive on soccer. So does the dubiously named crew of Indios fans, El Kartel. In this honest, unflinching, and powerful book, Robert Andrew Powell chronicles a season of soccer in this treacherous city just across the Rio Grande, and the moments of pain, longing, and redemption along the way. As he travels across Mexico with the team, Powell reflects on this struggling nation and its watchful neighbor to the north. This story is not just about sports, or even community, but the strength of humanity in a place where chaos reigns.

"[I]n this clear-eyed and humane book Powell has succeeded in introducing his readers to a truth behind the grim and

monotonous headlines." "--Boston Globe""[A]n edgy, anecdotal view of a place where 'Murder is effectively legal'... Powell captures surreal feelings of beauty and desolation, exuberance and danger. Though the Indios fail and fail big, Powell succeeds brilliantly... An eye-opening and unforgettable account of a part of the world that, for all its notoriety, is effectively invisible." "--Booklist" (starred review)"Candid... Unsentimental and deeply humane." "--Kirkus s""Much like the soccer classic *The Miracle of Castel di Sangro* by Joe McGinniss, Powell's work explores not only the connection between an athletic team and its fans but also one city and one community's ability to simultaneously face conditions that destroy hope and try to restore faith, and in doing so he has written not only a great sports book but also a powerful treatise on civics and human nature." "--Publishers Weekly""Terrific. Fantastic. A hell of a book. In the best tradition of literary journalism, Robert Andrew Powell finds the story we'd missed in our own backyard, using the love of soccer to reveal the humanity that survives in hyper-violent Ciudad Juarez. This is the best sports non-fiction I've read in a long, long time." "--""Grant Wahl, "New York Times" "bestselling author of "The Beckham Experiment""To call "This Love Is Not For Cowards" a sports book does it an injustice. Powell tackles a subject that actually should matter to Americans: The bloody breakdown of civic life just over the U.S. border -- and the ways it can corrode even the most detached observer's soul. Daring, honest and wielding a pitch-perfect ear, he uses soccer to chart Juarez's ultra-violent anarchy the way the best correspondents chronicle war. He leaps into the devil's playground -- and reports the hell out of it." "--S.L. Price, senior writer, "Sports Illustrated""The most dangerous game is beliAbout the AuthorRobert Andrew Powell is the author of "We Own This Game" (Grove/Atlantic, 2003), a story of race, politics and football in Miami. The book was excerpted in *Sports Illustrated*; the magazine later named it one of the Best Books of 2003. His journalism has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *New York Times Magazine*, *Play*, *Slate*, *Mother Jones, Inc.*, 5280, *Sports Illustrated*, *Runner's World*, the *Kansas City Star*, on public radio's "This American Life with Ira Glass," and in the "Best American Sports Writing" anthology. He also produced a documentary film, "Year of the Bull," which first aired on Showtime. He has won a James Beard Award for his food writing and twice been a finalist for the Livingston Award. He lives in Miami.