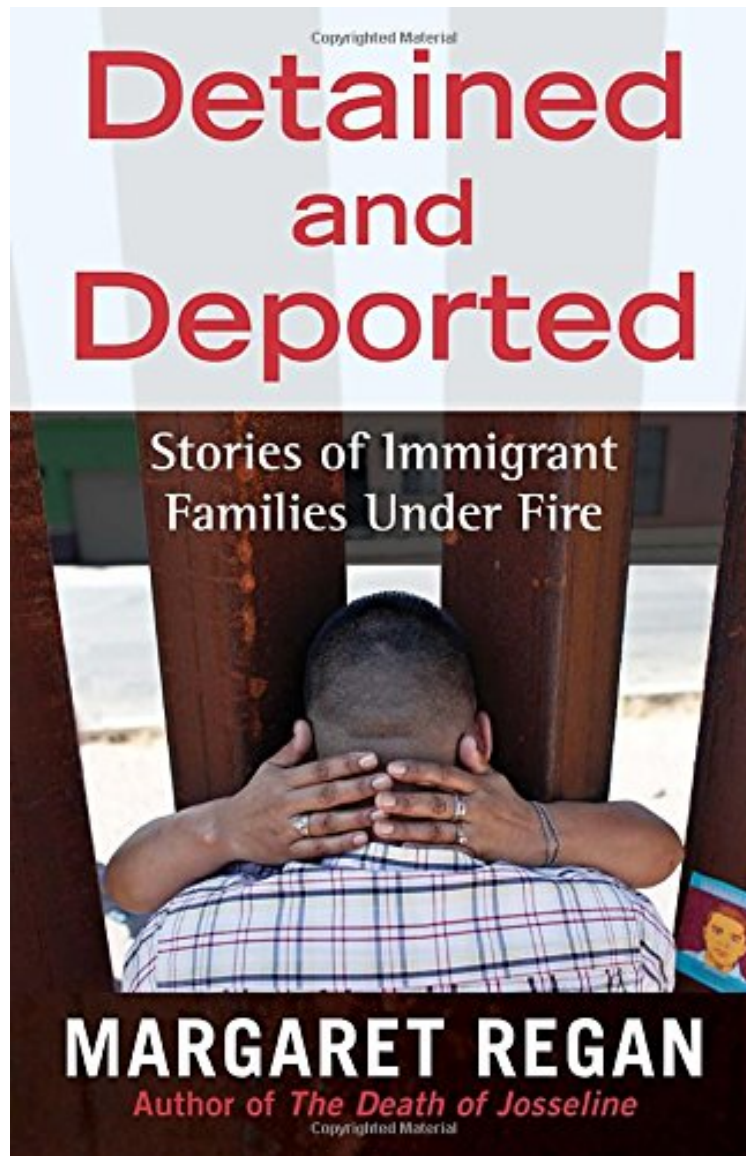


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Detained and Deported: Stories of Immigrant Families Under Fire

Margaret Regan

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Margaret Regan : Detained and Deported: Stories of Immigrant Families Under Fire before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Detained and Deported: Stories of Immigrant Families Under Fire:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Must-Read for every American By Gary This is an important book for every American to read, especially now that the issue of immigration is on the table in the political arena. Margaret Regan tells the untold story, that of the suffering of Latino immigrants, the undocumented, who have been unfairly

criminalized and whose suffering lies on our shoulders until we demand change in our immigration laws, offer pathway to citizenship and the compassion and fairness our nation once stood for. For more understanding fiction readers should read. The Central Crisis is increasing the number of women and children who are knocking at our door, not chasing the American dream but fleeing violence and death in the Northern Triangle of Central America. Under the Salvadoran Sun 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. wonderfully written - a eye opener on the absolute cruelty ... By Mitch wonderfully written - a eye opener on the absolute cruelty of the US System for those caught here illegally. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Reality at the southern border. By John J. Floro A very informative book about the terrible human condition at the southern border. Whichever side of the political debate a person is, this book brings a human perspective to the issue.

An intimate look at the people ensnared by the US detention and deportation system, the largest in the world. On a bright Phoenix morning, Elena Santiago opened her door to find her house surrounded by a platoon of federal immigration agents. Her children screamed as the officers handcuffed her and drove her away. Within hours, she was deported to the rough border town of Nogales, Sonora, with nothing but the clothes on her back. Her two-year-old daughter and fifteen-year-old son, both American citizens, were taken by the state of Arizona and consigned to foster care. Their mothers only offense: living undocumented in the United States. Immigrants like Elena, who have lived in the United States for years, are being detained and deported at unprecedented rates. Thousands languish in detention centers, often torn from their families for months or even years. Deportees are returned to violent Central American nations or unceremoniously dropped off in dangerous Mexican border towns. Despite the dangers of the desert crossing, many immigrants will slip across the border again, stopping at nothing to get home to their children. Drawing on years of reporting in the Arizona-Mexico borderlands, journalist Margaret Regan tells their poignant stories. Inside the massive Eloy Detention Center, a for-profit private prison in Arizona, she meets detainee Yolanda Fontes, a mother separated from her three small children. In a Nogales soup kitchen, deportee Gustavo Sanchez, a young father who lived in Phoenix since the age of eight, agonizes about the risks of the journey back. Regan demonstrates how increasingly draconian detention and deportation policies have broadened police powers, while enriching a private prison industry whose profits are derived from human suffering. She also documents the rise of resistance, profiling activists and young immigrant Dreamers who are fighting for the rights of the undocumented. Compelling and heart-wrenching, *Detained and Deported* offers a rare glimpse into the lives of people ensnared in America's immigration dragnet.

Praise for *Detained and Deported* Intimate and heartbreaking. For those who have been searching for an authentic look at people caught between borders, this is it. Publishers Weekly, starred review. Heartbreaking, thorough, and insightful. Regan's work gives readers an important view into the challenges faced by undocumented immigrants. Library Journal. A timely look at the inhumane effects of immigration policies in the United States. Regan's books bring into focus the fates of undocumented people fighting against the odds to make it into America and then, if they get here, struggling, and often failing, to build a life. Kirkus. Margaret Regan has done it again. With beautiful, absorbing prose, and meticulous research, she captures the intense and intimate stories of those detained, deported, and forcibly separated from their families by the most massive detention and deportation system we've ever had in the United States. A powerful and deeply moving book. Todd Miller, author of *Border Patrol Nation: Dispatches From the Front Lines of Homeland Security*. This important work should be read together with Regan's previous exposé, *The Death of Josseline* (2010). Booklist. Praise for *The Death of Josseline*. This book should be required reading for everyone from President Obama and the director of Homeland Security to the border patrol agents, the vigilantes, and migrant rights activists. If people on both sides of the immigration issue picked up this book instead of arms, we would come to a peaceful resolution; it gave me inspiration. Sandra Cisneros, author of *The House on Mango Street*. Most border experts and immigration writers are mere tourists. This writer is not one of them. In Margaret Regan's *The Death of Josseline*, you have a writer who lives the story, reports from the heart of the killzone, and works the territory on a regular basis. The many admirers of Enriquez's *Journey* will find much to admire, and fear, in this powerful report. Luis Alberto Urrea, author of *The Devils Highway*. There may be no better way to understand the muddle that is US immigration policy than by reading these portraits of people who cross the border in hopes of a better life. Ted Robbins, National Public Radio. About the Author. Margaret Regan is the author of the award-winning book *The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Arizona Borderlands* (Beacon Press), a 2010 Southwest Book of the Year and a Common Read for the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. An editor and writer at the Tucson Weekly, Regan has won many regional and national prizes for her immigration reporting, including the 2013 Al Filippov Peace and Justice Award. She lives in Tucson, Arizona. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. From the Introduction. Yolanda Fontes sat in her prison scrubs and watched the families gathered all around her. Husbands were reconnecting with wives, sisters with sisters, mothers with children. It was a sunny Sunday in April, and the families had flocked to the Eloy Detention Center, a dreary for-profit immigration prison in rural Arizona, to visit their detained loved ones. A female prisoner sat with her small son on her lap, her arms wrapped

tightly around him, as if she were imagining never letting him go. The aunt who had brought the little boy spoke sorrowfully to her sister as the child snuggled in his mothers embrace. Nearby, an imprisoned father sat across a table from his wife, clutching her hand. They were trying to talk, but their four-year-old daughter, hungry and tired, fussed on the floor below. None of the families in the packed room had any privacy. An impassive guard presided over their melancholy reunions, keeping a close watch on the mothers and fathers dressed in jailbird scrubs. The visiting room was bleak and windowless, lit by glaring prison lights. It was a beautiful spring day outside, but no rays of sunlight pierced its cinder block walls. Alone among the detainees in this stark space, Yolanda had no family visiting, just me, a writer who had come to hear her story. She was glad to be out of her prison unit, and she was full of smiles, determined to be cheerful. Yet her tale was grim, and she looked at the other detainees kids wistfully as she recounted it. During the two years shed spent locked up in Eloy, shed seen her two little girls and her little boy only sporadically. The children, all American citizens, lived in a distant suburb northwest of Phoenix. They came to visit their mom only when a relative or friend could spare the time to drive the two-hundred-mile round trip to Eloy. The last time Yolanda had seen them was two months before. Yolanda was thirty-two. Shed slipped into Arizona from Mexico seventeen years before, when she was just fifteen. She spoke flawless English and, even though she had no papers, shed almost never had any difficulty finding a job. And until two years ago, shed never had trouble with immigration. But the father of her two younger children regularly beat her, and one attack triggered a series of disasters that eventually landed her in jail and now detention. The abusive ex had the two kids and Yolanda was facing deportation. She could have accepted removal to Mexico right away and gotten out of Eloy but if she were deported she would lose the children. So she stayed in the prison month after month, fighting her case, hoping to persuade a judge to overturn the deportation order, praying to get back to her daughters and her son. Yolandas spirits flagged just once during the two hours we talked. The last time the kids came to see her, she said, her five-year-old, Little V, had looked at her suspiciously. He told me I didnt look like his mother, she said, her eyes filling with tears. Her own child was starting to forget her. Down in Nogales, on the Mexican side of the border, Gustavo Sanchez Perez was just as worried about his kids. He was a twenty-five-year-old landscaper from Phoenix; I met him early one hot July morning at a Catholic comedor just steps from the international line. He was one of sixty deportees eating a hearty breakfast of beans and rice in a humble dining hall run by an order of Mexican nuns. Like Yolanda, Gustavo had moved with his family from Mexico to the United States as a child. Born in Veracruz, hed come to Phoenix at the age of eight and lived there ever since. He spoke perfect English. He and his wife had two small children, a boy of four and a baby girl, both of them US citizens. Gustavo had been arrested in Phoenix for riding his bicycle at night without a light and then detained by ICE. Hed rotated through several detention centers, in Arizona and in Colorado, before being tossed back over the border into Nogales. Hed always worked hard to support his children. What was their mother doing now, he wondered, without his wages coming in? He was staying in a shelter, but he would have to leave soon. Nogales was reeling under a deluge of deportees from the United States, and the towns shelters didnt have the resources to house los deportados longer than three days. Gustavo would have to move on. His mother in Phoenix had advised him to go back to Veracruz, but he had no intention of returning to a place where everyone was a stranger. He knew where he needed to be: with his children, at home, in Phoenix. The way to get back to them lay over the border and through the Arizona desert, but the journey would be perilous in more ways than one. He could die out there in the heat, as so many had done before him. And if he made it through, he ran the risk of arrest. If they catch me, he said, I get ten years in jail.