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Sarah Sentilles

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TAUGHT BY AMERICA

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Sarah Sentilles : Taught by America: A Story of Struggle and Hope in Compton before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Taught by America: A Story of Struggle and Hope in Compton:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Taught by America By Godsgirl15 This book by Sarah Sentilles is a real, heartbreaking, amazing account of her time in Compton, California as she taught through Teach for America. It

turns out, while she went in thinking she was going to be teaching her students, they were really the ones who taught her. About life, faith, perseverance, privilege, violence, poverty, and hope. I had to read it for a class, but I'm so thankful I discovered this treasure!4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Very realisticBy CustomerI enjoyed this book. The author is very realistic and authentic in her discussions. I found it to be very thought-provoking.0 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Book is new , arrived promptlyBy J. GrimesThe book is excellent and appears to be new and arrived promptly

After graduating from Yale University, Sarah Sentilles joined Teach for America and was assigned to a rundown elementary school in Compton, California. Through moving portraits of inspiring children, Sentilles relates a heartbreaking journey, as she learns about a failing school system, the true meaning of poverty in America, and the strength children exhibit when they're just struggling to survive. Beautifully written, charged with love and indignation, *Taught by America* is a powerful tribute to the young lives Sentilles witnessed.

From BooklistSentilles joined Teach for America following graduation from Yale in 1995 and was placed in a first-grade class in an elementary school in Compton, California. A white woman raised in suburbia, Sentilles concedes that she knew about poverty, racism, and injustice before the experience, but--like so many Americans--simply ignored them. Her experience in Compton forced her to confront these issues every single day, eventually changing the direction of her life. She had expected to complete a doctorate in literature; instead, she became an ordained Episcopal minister. Through recollections of the students, parents, and teachers in Compton, Sentilles describes the heartbreaking conditions of schools with few resources and of children wanting the same opportunities as others though their lives are filled with violence and neglect. From the day she entered a room with 30 desks and a roster of 36 children, Sentilles found a school with no supplies, falling ceilings, dirt playgrounds, and inexperienced teachers. Even with her admitted "savior complex," Sentilles left the school but shares with readers the poignant lessons she learned there. Vanessa BushCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved This is a poignant, touching memoir from a natural-born teacher. The education of Sarah Sentilles is something we can all learn from.--Geoffrey Canada, author of *Fist, Stick, Knife, Gun* and president of Harlem Children's Zone, Inc."Sentilles gives a stirring description of working in one of our poorest school systems . . . [A] profoundly moving book."-Library Journal(starred review)"Hauntingly eloquent, this memoir raises chilling questions about race, social privilege, failing schools, and the loss of innocence. Sentilles's reflections on her students, their families, and the education they (don't) receive stays with you long after her story ends. This is a wakeup call that we as a nation cannot afford to ignore."--Janie Victoria Ward, author of *The Skin We're In*"A stirring account of tragedy and transformation in American public education. *Taught by America* captures the way one relentless woman confronts her own privilege, suggests the impact Teach for America has on schools struggling with the effects of poverty, and finally, most poignantly, illustrates how Sentilles's students reveal her own search for justice as a kind of faith."--Michael Johnston, author of *In the Deep Heart's Core*About the AuthorSarah Sentilles graduated from Yale University in 1995 and earned her master's in 2001 from Harvard Divinity School. She is currently working on her doctorate in theology. Sentilles lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts. This is her first book.