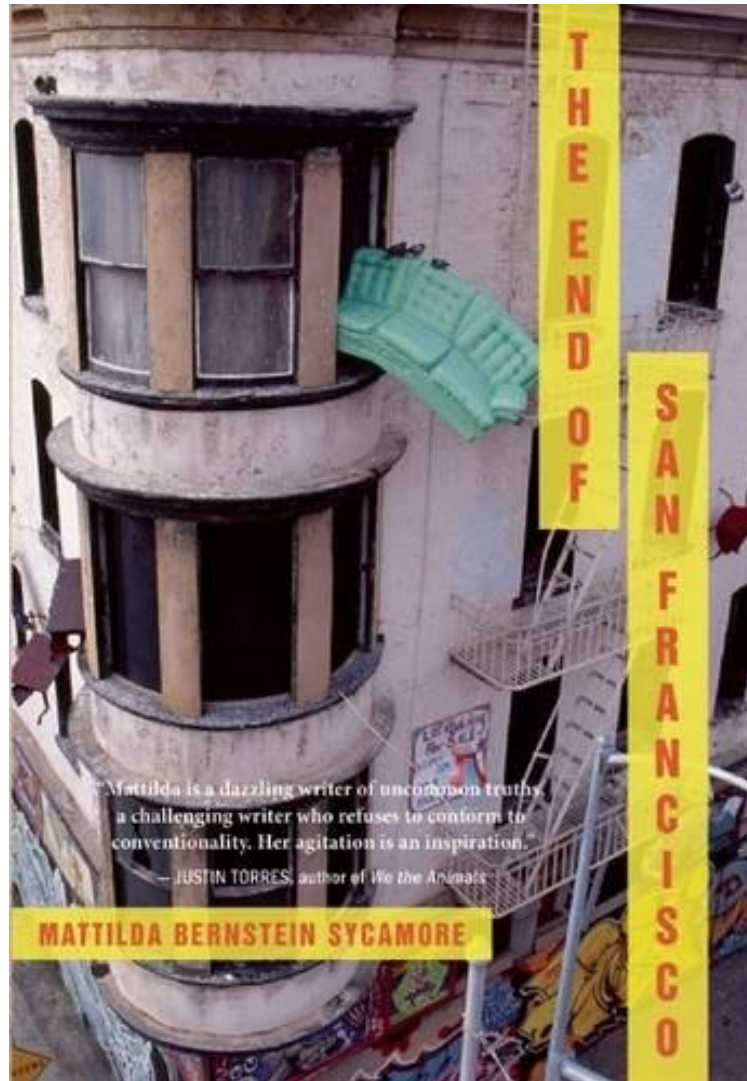


The End of San Francisco

Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore

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#56205 in Books 2013-03-19 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.90 x .70 x 5.40l, .55 #File Name: 087286572X192 pages | File size: 32.Mb

Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore : The End of San Francisco before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The End of San Francisco:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. More please By D Garza The End of San Francisco reads like an elegy to the queer activism, culture, art and community that had shaped and defined several generations of lost genderqueer folks who defied an assimilationist lifestyle on purpose, not despite a lack of tolerance. While this memoir defies form get ready to run, hop and work it across the county with Mattilda as she exposes her most vulnerable and decisive moments that shaped the trajectory of her life as an activist, author and queen all the while pulling you in like a trusted confidant. The white washing and homogenizing of San Francisco is endemic to the gentrification that is

spreading throughout San Francisco (and all urban areas). The witnessing of it is nothing short of devastating. More please on writing that defies this tragedy.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must readBy Penelope PoppersAs usual, Mattilda has done it again with another amazing work of her writing.2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Another Fabulous Book From Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore!By wildflowerboyIn this beautifully written memoir, radical genderqueer activist, Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore, interweaves the personal with the political, sharing intimate stories of her life as an anorexic sex worker, recovering drug addict, and incest survivor, alongside her frontline experiences in groups like Gay Shame, ACT UP, Queeruption, and Fed Up Queers. It is fascinating to read about the group dynamics of these organizations and the direct actions they participated in, but I'm saddened to hear about her feelings of deep alienation as a genderqueer activist in the anarchist community which she views as largely being dominated by macho, cisgender, heterosexual men. (Personally, I think the anarchist movement has made a lot of progress on LGBT issues over the last several years, but I admit there's still a lot of work to be done.) Considering the nauseating state of affairs of the mainstream, assimilationist, corporate-funded LGBT political machine with its right-wing, reactionary agenda of gay marriage, gays in the military, and hate crime legislation, we need more people like Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore, who in my humble opinion, is one of the most important queer writers of my generation. I strongly recommend this book!

The End of San Francisco breaks apart the conventions of memoir to reveal the passions and perils of a life that refuses to conform to the rules of straight or gay normalcy. A budding queer activist escapes to San Francisco, in search of a world more politically charged, sexually saturated, and ethically consistentthis is the person who evolves into Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore, infamous radical queer troublemaker, organizer and agitator, community builder, and anti-assimilationist commentator. Here is the tender, provocative, and exuberant story of the formation of one of the contemporary queer movement's most savvy and outrageous writers and spokespersons.Using an unrestrained associative style to move kaleidoscopically between past, present, and future, Sycamore conjures the untidy push and pull of memory, exposing the tensions between idealism and critical engagement, trauma and self-actualization, inspiration and loss. Part memoir, part social history, and part elegy, The End of San Francisco explores and explodes the dream of a radical queer community and the mythical city that was supposed to nurture it."Mattilda is a dazzling writer of uncommon truths, a challenging writer who refuses to conform to conventionality. Her agitation is an inspiration."Justin Torres, author of We the AnimalsAuthor Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore is the artistic love child of John Genet and David Wojnarowicz, deconstructing language swathed in unbridled sensuality, while flinging readers into a disrupted, chaotic life of queer anarchy.Gay and Lesbian Review"Bring on The End of San Francisco! And Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore, whose new book has reinvented memoir without the predictable gloss of passive resolution. This book is undeniably brave and new, and the internal energy churning at its core is like nothing you've seen, heard or read before. I swear."T Cooper, author of Real Man Adventures"We hear so much about coming-of-age narratives that we seldom think about going-of-age the shutting down and closure, the making sense of where we've been. Written with grace, reserve, and the honest tremblings that come when things matter, Mattilda shows us that The End of San Francisco is really the beginning of joy."Daphne Gottlieb, author of 15 Ways to Stay Alive"It would be easy to describe The End of San Francisco as a Joycean 'Portrait of the Artist as a Young Queer' (although the book's intense stream of consciousness is reminiscent of the later, more experimental, Joyce)but this is misleading. This journey of a life that begins in the professional upper-middle class (both parents are therapists) and the Ivy League and moves to hustling, drugs, activismSycamore was active in ACT UP and Queer Nationand queer bohemian grunge, is profoundly American. At heart, Sycamore is writing about the need to escape control through flight or obliteration."Michael Bronski, San Francisco Chronicle"But, some of my favorite writers and people released books this year. Like Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore's beautiful book about queerness and community and lack of and disappointment and marginalization and gentrification and sex, The End of San Francisco. God, I love that book, on a sentence level it is just heartbreaking."Jessa Crispin, BookslutMattilda Bernstein Sycamore is the editor of four anthologies, including Why Are Faggots So Afraid of Faggots, That's Revolting, and Nobody Passes, and two novels. She writes regularly for a variety of publications, including the San Francisco Bay Guardian, Bitch, Bookslut, Alternet, and Time Out New York, and is the reviews editor at the feminist magazine Make/shift. She lives in Seattle, WA.