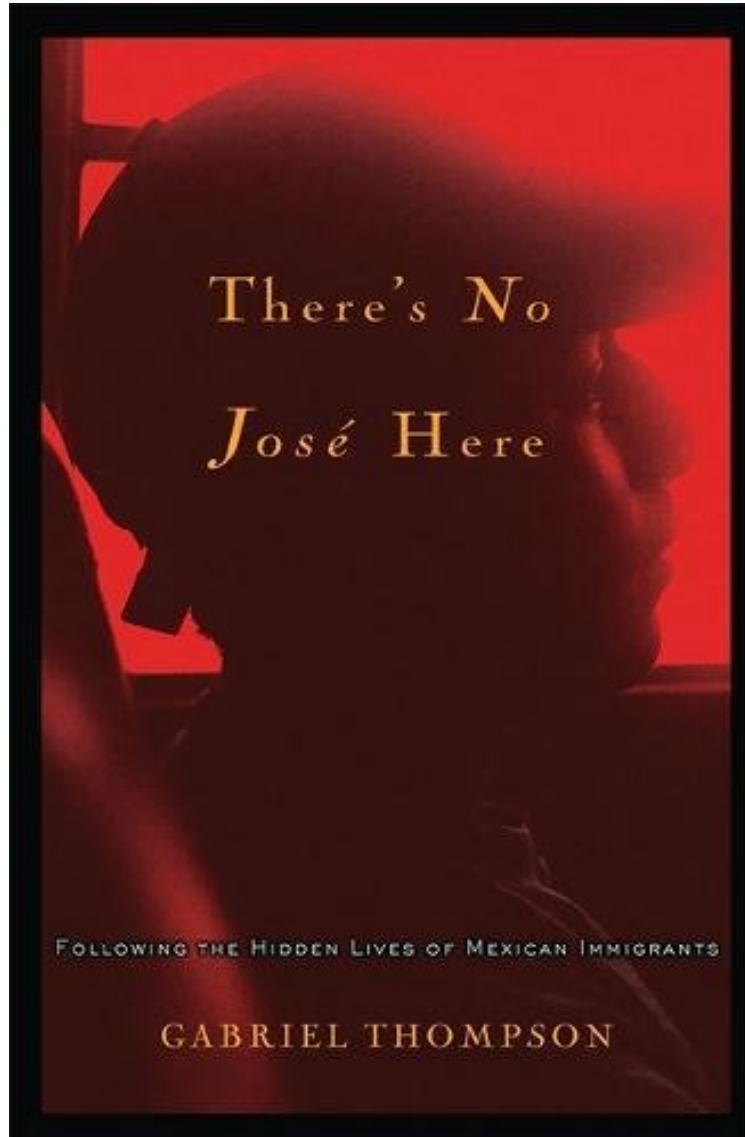


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There's No Jose Here: Following the Hidden Lives of Mexican Immigrants

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#1273042 in Books Gabriel Thompson 2006-12-21 Original language: English PDF # 1 1.00 x 10.00 x 5.00l, .52 #File Name: 1560259906256 pages There s No Jose Here Following the Hidden Lives of Mexican Immigrants | File size: 63.Mb

Gabriel Thompson : There's No Jose Here: Following the Hidden Lives of Mexican Immigrants before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised There's No Jose Here: Following the Hidden Lives of Mexican Immigrants:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good book on immigrationBy JomoA great read from someone wanting to know more about how our undocumented residents are treated...it is not a bed of roses. Considering the attitudes of Tump-ites, this book is an asset so very relevant to our times. .3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. It's Already Too Late for White AmericaBy Becky CoffieldIs Gabriel Thompson's point in writing this book to arouse sympathy for Mexican immigrants? If so, I'm not sure he's successful, and I'm a "bleeding heart liberal." If he's writing just to let the reader know how difficult life can be for immigrants (and this could apply to immigrants of any origin), then he succeeded; however, I must add that he could have substituted inner city blacks, Native Americans, or lower economic-class whites just as easily. Thompson definitely raises awareness of the miserable lives many of the immigrants have, regardless of whether they're "legal" or "illegal". And he also indicates that their miserable lives in the United States are actually better than their even more miserable lives in Mexico. The issue seems to be that they are taken advantage of by nefarious, unscrupulous, immoral CAPTALISTS. And that (being a capitalist) is something that Thompson most likely is not. This is not to say that this is not a good book. It is a VERY good book and well written. The issue is that the author raises so many troubling, conflicting issues. Two in particular stand out: one issue is the incredibly ruthless, unprincipled slumlords who the immigrants must deal with, and the archaic, inept bureaucracy that seems to thwart their every effort to get the most basic amenities provided, such as heat, hot water, etc. The other issue, however, that is put forth by many "anti-immigration" folks, is how the immigrants are, in fact, willing to work for substandard wages, thus bringing wages down for all. This hurts all workers, regardless of race or ethnicity. Jobs that used to be able to support a family, no longer do so because of immigrants who are willing to work for substantially less than a livable wage. Thompson's main character, Enrique, is an engaging fellow, full of dreams for a better life for himself and especially his children. He is intelligent, energetic, and extraordinarily hard-working. His disappointment at how difficult life is in the United States and how little progress he's made is understandable. But, it seemed like many of the problems the immigrants experienced resulted from having too many kids...by too many different people. Why is it that some people feel they must have a child with every person with whom they copulate? Kids are, hello! Expensive! Thompson makes a point, however, that white Americans need to get into their heads: Mexican immigrants are here in far greater numbers than most people realize, and they are not going to go away. This brings us to the title: There's No Jose' Here. The immigrants are ubiquitous and have gone largely unnoticed (except for the Southwest) until recent marches brought them into the public light. It is already too late. They will, in fact, take over the country without a shot being fired, through their rate of reproduction. This is a very engrossing read. While I preferred "Working in the Shadows," this title is well worth reading as it does shed light on an unavoidable transition that is already occurring in this country. A case made for the Native American, however, would have moved me more.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A very realistic view of the 'illegal' immigrant problemBy Joseph A. VitovecWe are largely exposed to one point of view of a very complex issue. The excellent narrative will open your eyes and, hopefully, open your mind to an issue that benefits us all while we don't bother to appreciate the facts. It is easier to ignore and pretend than to open ones mind to this festering issue.

Mexican immigration has become one of the most polarizing issues and will remain a central issue in the coming years. Once Mexicans had a sizable presence in a few select states like California, Texas, Arizona and New York; today the fastest growing populations are in places like North Carolina, Arkansas, Georgia and Tennessee.. What motivates people to risk their very lives, and why don't Mexicans just "play by the rules" and enter legally? How do they cope, living in a strange country among people that speak a language they can't understand? And after everything they have gone through, do they see immigration as a blessing, a curse, or something in between? There's No Jose Here allows Mexicans in the U.S. to speak in their own words. The central narrative follows Enrique, a 34-year-old livery cab driver who came to the US illegally at the age of 16 and has since seen his daughter lead poisoned, his mother abandoned in Mexico by his father, his cousin murdered on the streets of Brooklyn, and his best friend deployed to Iraq. This book gives readers a look into these stories as people struggle to survive in a new and often hostile land.

From Publishers WeeklyThe pro-immigration rallies throughout the United States in March 2006 brought attention to a rarely heard voice in the debate: the immigrant. Journalist and former community organizer Thompson puts several of these unheard voices on record, writing an intimate and emotional portrait of a Mexican family he befriended in Brooklyn. The book follows the lives of Enrique, a 34-year-old livery cab driver, and his family, whom Thompson meets while working as a housing rights organizer. Thompson's authentic friendship with Enrique is evident, giving the book a more personal tone than most immigration writing by outsiders. In fact, the book is as much about Thompson's desire for understanding as it is about Enrique's struggles with his daughter's lead poisoning, his best friend's deployment to Iraq, his cousin's murder in Brooklyn and family drama in Mexico. Their engaging and affectionate story begins in the housing courts of New York City and ends in Mexico, where Enrique, now a legal U.S. citizen, confronts his conflicted feelings about his native land. While Thompson successfully engages the reader in a

single immigrant's experience and psychology, he doesn't draw any larger societal conclusions. (Jan.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Thompson, a journalist who also works with a nonprofit organization assisting low-income renters in New York City, decided to delve into the immigrant experience, hoping to break through stereotypes. Thompson meets and befriends Enrique, a cabdriver who came to the U.S. illegally from Puebla, Mexico, in 1986. Thompson recounts his endless struggle to get Enrique's absent landlord to take care of the raw sewage in the basement of his building, the exposed electrical wiring, and the blocked fire escape, and his findings regarding the sad track record of the Housing Court, where Enrique repeatedly pleads his case. Thompson and Enrique then enter the "public health nightmare" of lead poisoning when Enrique's daughter is afflicted; together they help to organize fellow renters until the city finally addresses the problem. The last part of the book covers the author's road trip with Enrique to his birthplace in Mexico, where his mother still lives. Thompson's enlightening chronicle provides a realistic and unbiased look at many facets of the increasingly debated issues pertaining to immigrants' lives. Deborah Donovan Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved. About the Author Gabriel Thompson has written for many publications including The Nation, New York magazine, In These Times, Brooklyn Rail and Our Time Press. His organizing activities have been featured in the New York Times, Daily News, Village Voice and many other media outlets. Thompson is a seasoned public speaker who has led workshops on immigration across the country. He lives in New York City.