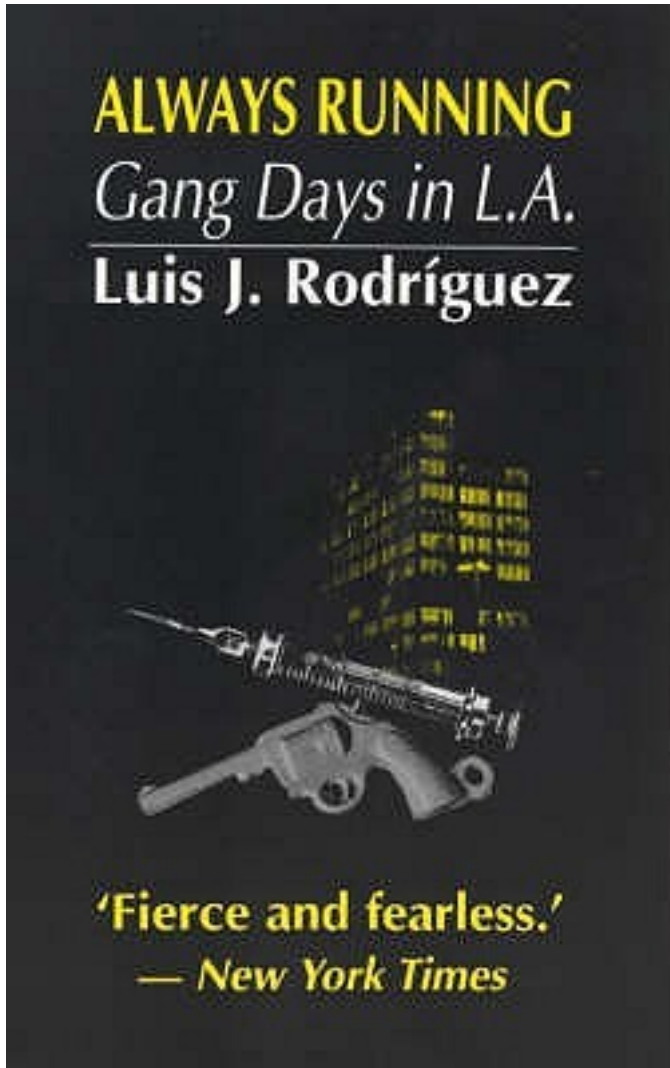

Luis J. Rodríguez

Always Running



Title: Always Running

Author: Luis J. Rodríguez

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Description

There has never been a more clear and compelling account of a gang member's life than *Always Running*, Luis J. Rodriguez's eloquent, impassioned, frighteningly vivid chronicle of his youth in Los Angeles in the late 60s and early 70s. Growing up in Watts and East L.A., Rodriguez joined his first gang at age 11 and was drawn into "la vida loca" - the crazy life. Gangs were "how we wove something out of the threads of nothing," he remembers. By age 18, he was a veteran of gang warfare, police killings, drug overdoses, and suicides that had claimed 25 of his friends and had driven him and so many others to despair. In part, Rodriguez survived the violence and desperation of his youth by writing down his experiences. They were only woven into this astonishing book years later, when his son, Ramiro, joined a gang in Chicago where they now live. *Always Running* is packed with episode after episode of high drama, but within this honest and powerful depiction of social devastation, there is a father's impassioned message of understanding and hope to his son, and to thousands like him. Rodriguez's inspiring story should be read by anyone who cares about the future of children in America.

Insightful reviews

Evangeline Frost: I got this book a few years ago, for free, from a college initiative to commemorate the new publication. I didn't read this book then. In some ways I wasn't ready. The other day I simply picked up this book from a bag of give away books and started to read. There was really no rhyme or reason, I just sat down and turned the pages. In another time, another place, this could have been my life. The what if's are staggering. What if my father had embraced his Latino heritage instead of assimilating himself to white culture. What if I had been born and raised in the predominantly Latino area of my city (where I live now). What if the Latino's in my schools had seen me as one of them, instead of the tan white girl.

What if, what if...

Like the author I too had support in someone that saw my talent for writing.

This is an excellent read that speaks to the heart of a time that was changing and the moments that made and broke it. This is a story that applies to all of us, not just those who lived and died in the barrios of L.A.. It is a life that could have gone down a different path, it is the life of all of us who have ever faced oppression, be it through race, gender, religion, or economic hardship. For those who believe our current conditions are a new phenomenon, will understand this is far from the truth. Our hardships started long before us, and will continue long after this.

Laurie: Before reading, I noticed that all but one review was positive and described this book as some combination of raw, emotional, and shocking. The other review described this book as being poorly written- there was an interesting life to explain, but it wasn't done well. Unfortunately, that was how I felt. I probably would have enjoyed this in high school, but now I know what can be done with a memoir. This didn't grab me and sometime the writing was done in such a way that it felt more like a newscast...just being said in a monotone way that doesn't inspire or touch the audience.

I felt that a story such as this could have been done so much better than it was. While it is an important story to be shared, it didn't at any point move me.

Steffanie Castaneda: To some people, getting involved in a gang is necessary to feel safe & a part of a family. A great example is Luis J. Rodriguez, a man who joined a gang since violence & racism forced him to become a member for his life's sake.

In the memoir *Always Running*, Luis J. Rodriguez reveals his gang life & all the struggles being part of a gang he faced in East L.A. He started as a member of the "Animal Tribe" & later became a "Lomas Loco" as a shield from his "Vida Loca." *Always Running* reveals Rodriguez's harsh life, facing racism, poverty, & violence early in his childhood. Later in the memoir, around his Senior Year, Rodriguez's talent as a writer is exposed, & with the help of his teacher Mrs. Baez as well as his involvement in ToHMAS, Rodriguez was catapulted into attending Cal State. However, he dropped out due to another gang issue. Rodriguez wrote the memoir for the intention of letting his son know what gang activity looks & feels like.

Rodriguez writes about all kinds of dramatic scenes with style, so anyone who isn't in a gang can immediately feel the fear & action that occurs. During the memoir, Rodriguez vividly describes his addiction to "sniffing" Despite of the horrible consequences "sniffing" had, Rodriguez used it as an escape, which he described as, "dangerous; it literally ate your brain. But it was also a great escape. "The world became like jello, like clay, something that could be molded & shaped. Sounds became louder, clearer – pulsating. Bodies removed themselves from bodies, floating with the sun." Another descriptive scene was at the last paragraph of the last chapter, were his confrontation with Chava occurred. The last paragraph, which tells, "I see Chava hobble away, two confused teenagers at his sides, & as he vanishes into a flicker of neon, I hear the final tempo of the crazy life leave my body, the last song before dying, lapsing forever out of my mind as Chava disappears, enveloped in flames breaking through asphalt, wrested into the black heart of the night" is a great example of the vivid images *Always Running* holds.

I really enjoyed reading this memoir. Simply being able to read about someone's life (in this case Luis J. Rodriguez) & see aspects of life one can relate to was amazing. Despite of many Spanish & gang-related words that were used, any person can follow through with the glossary provided so no one gets lost. I can assure that this book is like no other, because in every scene you can feel & visualize every moment, whether it's angry, sad, or accomplished, disregarding what background the reader is from.

Nik Melo: i believe it used to be a truly stable book. It by no means bought out of the tale it used to be very focused on Luis(the most Character).

Joaquin: think growing to be up through the 60's/70's within the gang days of L.A, continuously getting pressured by way of police, rival gangs and residing with the enticements of gear and money. this is often how the author/poet Luis Rodriguez grew up, and so as to persuade his son, Ramiro, to not become involved with this life, he wrote "*Always Running*"-A choice of stories from his lifestyles that may encourage anyone of any culture. Rodriguez's use of images

and sensory aspect completely depict the enticements of “La vida loca”-the loopy life. He describes the times before, in the course of and after he was once in a gang. He supplies us examples of what occurred to such a lot of his friends, like Wilo getting run over through rival gang members, even after he moved away, to teach us how fortunate he used to be to make it out alive. Luis Rodriguez got here along with his kin from Mexico to the United States. His father was once a professor, who needed to run from the government. Whilst Luis came his brother may torment him constantly, till they obtained beat up through white kids, from then on, they knew what they have been scuffling with against. Luis began a gang early on, in heart school, and even though he stopped that gang really quickly, he quickly joined another, Las Lomas. Sangra used to be their rival gang, or even whereas he was once excited about a gang, doing medicines and getting into fights, he joined membership referred to as M.E.Ch.A, and fought for the equality of his fellow Mexican students, via a chain of demonstrations, rallies and speeches. After excessive school, he used to be in university for only a while, and he used to be engaged on a ebook for an enormous publishing company, whilst he observed a Latina woman, who used to be evidently drunk, being pressured via the police, so, he intervened and was once given fake charges. He fought the fees and ended up purely paying a fine, and persisted on together with his life, to get married and feature children. simply whilst he concept he was once performed with this life, a member of one other gang, who threatened to kill him. Luis stayed cool, and advised the guy to maneuver on together with his life, simply as he did. Luis Rodriguez stood up for what he believed in, exhibiting braveness and loyalty. He used to be taken with diverse worlds that affected an analogous types of people. such a lot of what he did at school was once for the good thing about Latinos going to college and getting unfair remedy so far as direction selection. whereas so much different young ones may simply take what was once given to them and proceed to enable the Latinos be handled unfairly, Luis stood up opposed to what they have been doing and confident his fellow scholars to make change. There are many different subject matters to this story. even though it was once written as a precautionary story opposed to gangs, it additionally tells humans to be exact and rise up for what they suspect in. through together with the half the place he gave a speech approximately equality among white and Latino students, he exhibits how important it's to be brave and converse your mind. However, he additionally tells us how harmful it may possibly be, through telling approximately whilst he attempted to persuade his gang chief that violence was once no longer the answer, and that Sangra used to be now not the enemy, correct prior to they have been going to Sangra turf to kill them all. This ebook used to be inspiring for me and for many those that have learn it. Luis specializes in the Latino fight and via giving us examples of what he did, tells us what we will do. Today, much has been performed for Latinos to get the equality we now have been scuffling with for, yet have been no rather there. Even humans of different ethnicities can relate. the writer used outstanding sensory aspect in the course of the whole publication that saved me reading, and virtually made me believe like I were throughout the similar things.

Caitlin: This publication is at the ALA's record of a hundred most often banned books of 1990 via 2000. This is a memoir of gang existence & of becoming up terrible and Chicano in East Los Angeles within the '60's & '70's. it is also approximately studying who you're and discovering methods out - via writing, via painting, & via social activism. Rodriguez is essentially a poet and author of brief tales & it indicates during this selection of photos of moments from his past. For these in need of a customary story with a classical throughline and neat conclusions, this ebook will disappoint. I loved the author's imagery and the methods he performs with the style of

memoir. what's memory? What will we remember? How will we be mindful it? For me a lot of my reminiscence is simply what he presents - little snapshots of moments in time. From a political/social perspective, this publication does an excellent activity of elucidating the explanations little ones subscribe to gangs and the prospective paths out. He talks approximately gangs as one of those mass suicide & that is an idea that caught with me - these kind of youngsters searching for kinfolk & hating themselves. In a kind of humorous moments the place impacts collide which can take place whereas reading, I stored contemplating one other gang memoir that I learn whilst i used to be younger. I remembered that it used to be written by means of a Puerto Rican man that grew up in Spanish Harlem & used to be additionally approximately the entire ways in which books kept him, yet i could not be mindful the identify of the book. It used to be correct there at the tip of my tongue. i may do not forget that the writer used to be named Piri, yet that used to be all. Then I grew to become a web page & there it was once - Down those suggest Streets through Piri Thomas - seems Luis Rodriguez learn that one, too. This e-book can be packed with colours of Sandra Cisneros - a Chicana author & poet whose paintings i have learn off & on due to the fact her first e-book - the home on Mango Street. Like Cisneros, Rodriguez' paintings is stuffed with rhythm & vibrant color. I loved this ebook an excellent deal, even if i do not believe it deals any long term recommendations to those problems. just like the Corner, David Simon's killer tome on lifestyles on a Baltimore drug corner, this booklet illustrates the condition. possibly schooling quite is the single approach out, yet to get there we'll need to spend a few funds & cease utilizing our instructional process to ghettoize humans in accordance with class, race, source of revenue level, & the section of the moon on Fridays whilst the cat's too drained to sing. The global is a fancy & appealing position & finally might be in simple terms phrases can shop us.

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