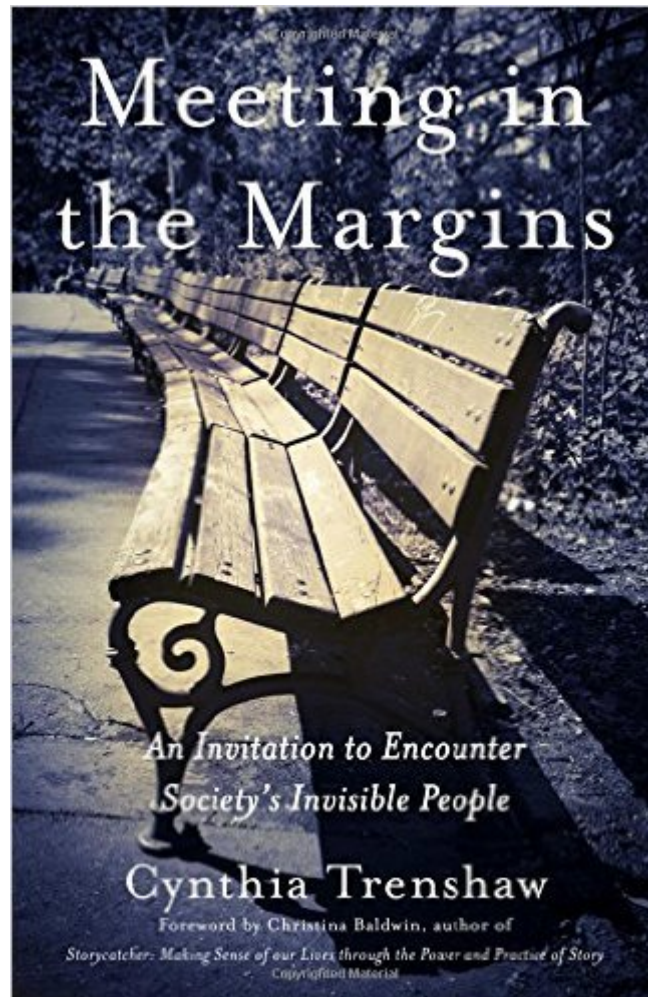


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Meeting In The Margins: An Invitation To Encounter Society's Invisible People



Synopsis

When Cynthia Trenshaw, recently widowed, moves to Berkeley, she thinks the reason she has transplanted herself is to earn her master's degree in theology. But when, step by unexpected step, she is drawn into the cultural borderlands where society's "invisible people" reside, she encounters dispossessed and demanding teachers not listed on any academic roster and becomes immersed in a heady curriculum of helplessness and joy, wisdom and pain. A book that encourages readers to receive the generosity and reciprocity of the margins, *Meeting in the Margins* offers guidance for how we can all, as individuals, begin to repair the rift between the margins and the mainstream of society simply by being profoundly present.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When you taste anything thinking it is something else, the taste is unwelcome. I anticipated a novel about the lives of the homeless. I am someone who stuffs my pocket with dollar bills when I walk the streets of San Francisco so that I don't have to root through my bottomless purse for my billfold when I encounter someone asking for help. I'm usually walking with someone else and don't want to make them wait too long. Thus, I looked forward to reading the stories of those folks who break your heart. The young defeated faces bother me most. Then there are the mothers with children. I feel the need to comment that it is difficult to separate the writing of the author from the life the author describes. The writing was excellent. The book reads much like a diary and one doesn't meet a homeless person until well into the novel. The author describes her initiation and spending three years in order to become a massage therapist for the homeless. She speaks of her spiritual need

and I think she has assigned herself this task as a means of being able to see herself eligible for sainthood. Less than enchanted, I read on. When I begin to read about the author's forages into the margins and her interactions with the marginalized, my interest is peaked. I begin to understand her need and where she is coming from. She proceeds despite the natural ick factor in touching people who haven't bathed or washed their clothes for a long time. She learns how to approach someone who may or may not be interested in being touched. She learns not to ask questions. She learns how to be safe even if traveling in pairs. The description of coming home to clean walls, toilet, toilet paper, shower, laundry facilities, clean sheets, a thermostat is one of the most telling in the book.

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