

(Download ebook) Translating LA: A Tour of the Rainbow City

Translating LA: A Tour of the Rainbow City

Peter Theroux

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Peter Theroux : Translating LA: A Tour of the Rainbow City before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Translating LA: A Tour of the Rainbow City:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. A Different Take on LA By A. Ross Let's face it, Los Angeles gets more negative press than any other city in America. Much of this is because it's such an easy target—from police brutality, to earthquakes, to disgustingly ostentatious wealth, to smog, to gang violence, to sprawl, to racial tension, to the film industry—so much of how outsiders define LA is easy to use as fodder for contempt. And when you have a city that covers over 1,000 square miles and includes about 85 incorporated cities, one is left with a megalopolis that's hard to get one's mind around, much less defend. That said, Boston-raised writer and translator Theroux does his best to find the good in LA. After ten years living in the Middle East, he moved to Long Beach in 1985 and set himself up as a translator. In twelve breezy chapters that mix the history of LA's different areas with his own excursions and recent history, Theroux makes the case for LA as a multicultural melting pot that remains as the overwhelming symbol for the American good life in the Third World. It's far from a comprehensive history or in-depth analysis (Mike Davis' *City of Quartz* will serve one better), but it does do a nice job of taking the reader through some of the neighborhoods with the aim of trying to explain how they are different and why. There are no big lessons to be learned, but Theroux's crisp prose and storytelling are a treat, and his open-minded approach to the city makes for a nice change. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. started with a bang, ended with a whimper By Brian Maitland Read this and got all hyped as the angle Peter Theroux takes is great in weaving the history of LA through his own experiences amongst the translation and tutoring community. Plus he is not cynical unlike his more famous offspring, Paul. Problem is he

eventually lost the plot and only the actual stuff on the history of LA starts to resonate. You can get all this elsewhere and, frankly, I grew not to care at all about Theroux's life in LA. Not that it needed to be Hollywood and Vine or Cribs vs. Bloods but it just went nowhere sort of like driving endlessly on LA's freeways and never getting off (pun intended).

Perceived as a swarming mixture of greed, glitz, riots, and paper-thin illusions, Los Angeles still fascinates with its glamor and darker sides. As a journalist, translator, and literacy tutor, Theroux is immersed in all of L.A.'s diverse cultures. Here, he takes readers on an affectionate driving tour of L.A.'s many cities.

From Publishers Weekly
The author of *Sandstorms: Days and Nights in Arabia* travels through the disparate communities and cultures that make up ultramodern Los Angeles. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.
About the Author
Jo Anne Metsch is an illustrator and book designer.
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