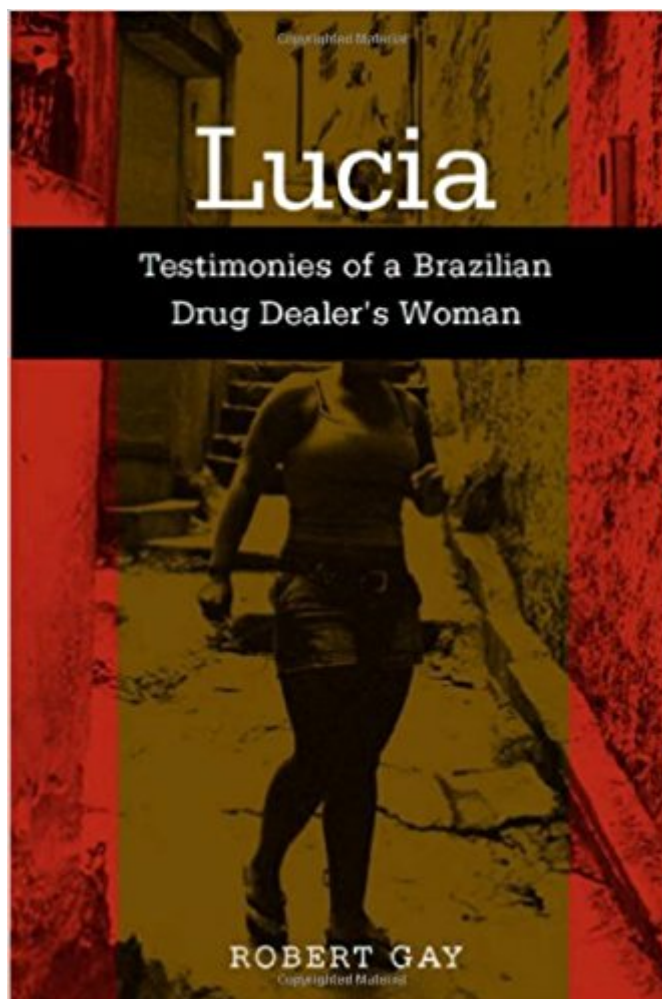


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Lucia: Testimonies Of A Brazilian (Voices Of Latin American Life)



Synopsis

In Rio de Janeiro, the selling points for cocaine are located in the city's six hundred or so shantytowns or favelas that are controlled by well-organized and heavily armed drug gangs. The struggle for control of the massive profits from the drug trade has resulted in what are increasingly violent and deadly confrontations between rival drug gangs and a corrupt and brutal police force that have transformed parts of the city into a war-zone. This book tells the story of Lucia, a poor Brazilian woman who was intimately involved with drug gang life in Rio throughout the 1990s. Through a series of conversations with the author, Lucia tells us, in her own words, what it is like to endure conditions of poverty, violence, and injustice that are simply unimaginable. And, in doing so, she sheds light on why women like her become involved with drugs and gangs.

Book Information

Series: Voices Of Latin American Life

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Temple University Press; 1 edition (May 23, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1592133398

ISBN-13: 978-1592133390

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #536,208 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #116 in Books > History > Americas > South America > Brazil #269 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Latin America #437 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Law Enforcement

Customer Reviews

"If you can no longer recall the stomach-churning depictions of Rio de Janeiro favelas from the 2002 film City of God, this true account of one mujer's life in the Brazilian underworld-trying to survive local gangs and merciless rule of her drug-lord boyfriend-will bring it all back."-Latina "Lucia is an outstanding book. Robert Gay does a splendid job of laying out and expanding the lives of Lucia and of those who intersect with her. He makes them live by explaining social organizations and institutions-gangs, prison, school, work, economy and religion-within the context of people's lives. Gay offers a rich, superbly readable narrative that develops these important themes. Lucia provides

depth and breadth to a subject about which there is little empirical research; it teaches sociology in an interesting and informed way."-Martha Huggins, Charles A. and Leo M. Favrot Professor of Human Relations, Tulane University "Rio de Janeiro is under siege. The poor communities and the favelas on the hills are submitted to a mix of terror and populism by the drug traffickers. The affluent classes live under fear of organized crime. Most of the police are involved in corruption and lethal violence. Despite this overwhelming presence, life in the favelas is not well known. Robert Gay has written a rigorous, but at the same time compassionate, study of the complex strategies for survival in those surroundings. In this outstanding book we are able to hear, through Lucia, the voice of those brave (and neglected) survivors."-Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, Senior Researcher, Center for the Study of Violence, University of Sao Paulo, and former Secretary of State for Human Rights, Brazil

One woman's story of life in the slums of Rio de Janeiro --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

So I bought this book for a sociology class that I am currently taking; The actual cover of the book doesn't look this...um...well anyway. The hardcover edition (which I bought) is actually a very plain brown "leather-like" cover and too be honest, actually quite nice. It really is a shame that I have to underline/flag pages of this thing and even more uh...ridiculous is that for such an elegant cover, this book in my opinion is not very good. This is an interesting read and a very, very, short read at that, but the price I paid was like....\$50 or something and that WAAAAAAAY too much for this book!The story: well if you like telenovelas or soap operas like I don't "one life to live" or stuff like that then you will like this book but if you want my advice: don't buy the hardcover book unless your professor is giving an exam on the book and you're pressed for time. If you've seen the movie "city of god" and liked it then you will like this book. If you are the feminist type though...(and not to be judgmental as I myself a woman) be prepared to get your feathers ruffled a little bit; I imagine the goal of this book is to provide insight (through Lucia's personal testimony) on the sad state of Brazil's economic and social infrastructure...and the inequalities therein

I appreciated Lucia's honesty in sharing her tale. She is not an empowered woman, I must add. Her livelihood was highly dependent on the efforts of the men in her life. In her early life, she didn't see the value of education. Now that she has acquired some wisdom, she realizes that education really is a powerful tool in exceeding negative circumstances.

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