

[PDF] Teardown: Memoir Of A Vanishing City

Gordon Young - pdf download free book



Books Details:

Title: Teardown: Memoir of a Vanishi
Author: Gordon Young
Released: 2013-06-28
Language:
Pages: 288
ISBN: 0520270525
ISBN13: 978-0520270527
ASIN: 0520270525

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Description:

From Fifteen years into his life in San Francisco, journalist Young and his wife finally bought a small house that provoked in him nostalgia for the sense of belonging he had growing up in Flint, Michigan. Should they trade their overpriced home for better bargains available in hard-pressed Flint and make a major contribution to a struggling city? Inspired by a blog he started for Flint expatriates, Young spent two summers indulging his nostalgia and seriously considering a return to the birthplace of General Motors and subject of Michael Moore's documentary, *Roger & Me*. He meets real-estate speculators, hearty urban pioneers, politicians, and city planners pushing the idea of shrinking cities like Flint that have suffered deindustrialization and depopulation. Beyond the harrowing facts of staggering crime and diminishing services, Young saw a city fighting mightily to

reclaim its glory days as a solid, middle-class town. Young compares youthful memories of Catholic schooling and free swimming lessons to the grim present of abandoned houses and shuttered schools in this poignant, often funny look at an iconic Rust Belt city struggling to recover. --Vanessa Bush

Review "A journalist living in San Francisco decides to move back to decrepit Flint, Mich., where he was born and raised. . . . It matters because: As cities like Flint go, so goes much of the nation. Perfect for: The amateur urbanist who wants to go to Flint without actually having to leave the backyard."

(Alexander Nazaryan *Atlantic Wire* 2013-06-12)

"A poignant, often funny look at an iconic Rust Belt city struggling to recover."

(Vanessa Bush *Booklist* 2013-07-01)

"Teardown is a story, readable and affecting, sad and funny, animated by human impulse and the American preoccupation with real estate values . . . it is a remarkably interesting read that is likely to resonate with anyone who has ever left home."

(Philip Martin *Arkansas Democrat Gazette* 2013-06-16)

"Young has written this love poem to his arson-prone, deindustrialized hometown and its impoverished and traumatized citizenry using a snappy yet journalistically skeptical style. . . . Even casual readers who have no experience with Rust Belt cities or real estate investment will find Teardown compelling and worth their attention."

(Jim Schulman *Washington Independent Review of Books* 2013-07-26)

"Young shines a spotlight on a broken city and the efforts of those desperate to save it, but this is also the story of a man confronting a crisis of identity and finding hope where there seemed to be none."

(*Publishers Weekly* 2013-07-15)

"The style of Teardown is Rolling-Stone-style journalism, relatively informal, strongly first person, loosely organized. But there is modern history, too, and wide-ranging inquiry into economics and (especially) politics. The strongest narrative interest, though, springs from Gordon's contacts with Flintites old and new, people doing what he is contemplating."

(Randall Mawer *Lost Coast Review* 2013-08-03)

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