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No Trespassing!: Squatting, Rent Strikes, And Land Struggles Worldwide





Synopsis

ContentsIntroductionChapter One: Homes Not Jails: The Secret Success of a Squatting Movement to House the HomelessChapter Two: Battling the Banana Baron: Rural Hondurans Fight Chiquita BrandsChapter Three: Arguments to Squat By: The Challenge to PropertyChapter Four: Direct Action and the LawChapter Five: Repression, Violent Resistance, and ReformChapter Six: Tactics and Mobilization: The Primacy of PowerConclusion: The Future of Land and Housing MovementsAn Excerpt from No Trespassing! By Anders CorrDraft Version: Please do not quoteChapter 1Homes Not Jails: The Secret Success of a Squatting Movement to House the Homeless Benjamin volunteered to open the vacant building on Shotwell and 22nd, and said I could follow. He had squatted it before the landlord kicked him out, but now lived in a sleazy downtown hotel. We walked up to the alley door, and just as Benjamin produced his crowbar, a very large guy (much smaller than Benjamin and much bigger than me) walked up to his own door just a few feet away. Benjamin thought quick and pretended legitimacy by knocking. "Whatcha knockin for?" the neighbor asked. His eyes narrowed. "Nobody lives there."Benjamin has broken into hundreds of buildings with Homes Not Jails and knew when to lead a tactical retreat. But undaunted, he circled the building and easily lifted his seven-foot frame over a fence and into the backyard. From my cowardly vantage I could see a weak flashlight flickering at us from a window in the second story of the next-door flat. Was it the neighbor who confronted us? Did he have a gun? Again, Benjamin either failed to notice the flashlight-wielding neighbor or cared little. He climbed the back stairs, jimmied the door, walked out the alley and returned with two homeless people who needed a place to stay. After letting the two into the squat, Benjamin promised to help change the lock if they stayed for a week. Afterwards I skipped to keep pace as, with a crowbar dangling from his pinkie, Benjamin lumbered about the neighborhood in search of more squats. Homelessness and the Growth of U.S. SquattingHomes Not Jails began with the wave of other homeless activist gro

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

NO TRESPASSING is a humane and scholarly look at homelessness, its root causes and its grass-roots remedies. The author has written a non-fiction, philosophical page-turner which should be in every homeless shelter, on every urban planner's desk, and on every corporate boardroom table. The book brings to bear the historical, political, philosophical, and human forces that shape homelessness and offers descriptions of solutions that have worked in today's world. Its an important read and a good one! Read it as you curl up in your warm house in a comfortable armchair, with a good reading light, a cup of hot tea in hand, and the knowledge that your chair, your light, your hot tea will be there for you tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow.

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