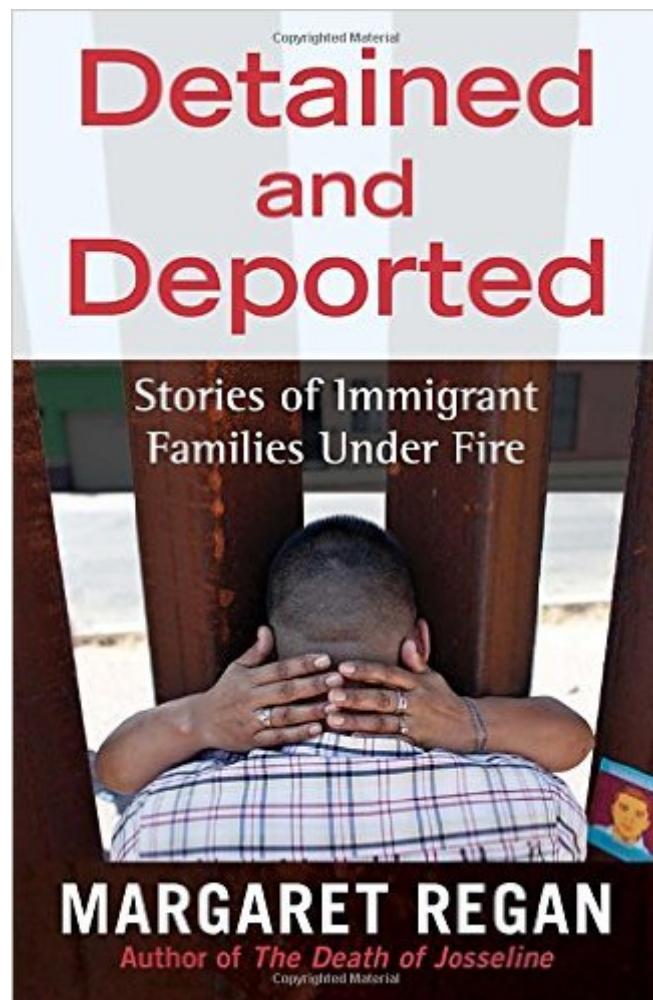


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Detained And Deported: Stories Of Immigrant Families Under Fire



Synopsis

An intimate look at the people ensnared by the US detention and deportation system, the largest in the world. On a bright Phoenix morning, Elena Santiago opened her door to find her house surrounded by a platoon of federal immigration agents. Her children screamed as the officers handcuffed her and drove her away. Within hours, she was deported to the rough border town of Nogales, Sonora, with nothing but the clothes on her back. Her two-year-old daughter and fifteen-year-old son, both American citizens, were taken by the state of Arizona and consigned to foster care. Their mother's only offense: living undocumented in the United States. Immigrants like Elena, who've lived in the United States for years, are being detained and deported at unprecedented rates. Thousands languish in detention centers "often torn from their families" for months or even years. Deportees are returned to violent Central American nations or unceremoniously dropped off in dangerous Mexican border towns. Despite the dangers of the desert crossing, many immigrants will slip across the border again, stopping at nothing to get home to their children. Drawing on years of reporting in the Arizona-Mexico borderlands, journalist Margaret Regan tells their poignant stories. Inside the massive Eloy Detention Center, a for-profit private prison in Arizona, she meets detainee Yolanda Fontes, a mother separated from her three small children. In a Nogales soup kitchen, deportee Gustavo Sanchez, a young father who'd lived in Phoenix since the age of eight, agonizes about the risks of the journey back. Regan demonstrates how increasingly draconian detention and deportation policies have broadened police powers, while enriching a private prison industry whose profits are derived from human suffering. She also documents the rise of resistance, profiling activists and young immigrant "Dreamers" who are fighting for the rights of the undocumented. Compelling and heart-wrenching, *Detained and Deported* offers a rare glimpse into the lives of people ensnared in America's immigration dragnet.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an important book and should be a must read for everyone in the United States as most of us have absolutely no clue what we as a country are doing to the most vulnerable of our own citizens. I'm not even finished reading this book, but this quote from page 118 was what made me want to review this even before I'd finished reading: "ICE's figures show that from July 2010 to September 2012 - the period during which Elena was expelled from the country - the United States deported some 204,816 parents who left behind children who were US citizens." The story of Elena - who was brought her by her mother when she was 13, and as a single parent of two children was deported to leave those children behind (the option of bringing them with her wasn't even given) to be placed into foster care, is appalling. "If the number of deported parents is high, the number of children left essentially parentless is staggering. Between 1998 and 2013, researchers estimate that some 660,000 US citizen children lost a parent to deportation." "In Arizona, anecdotal evidence shows that hundreds of kids of deportees are being held in foster care on any given day, Laurie told me. Ironically, at the same time that Arizona's CPS was taking custody of kids with perfectly capable parents like Elena, the agency was being investigated by the state for its failure to monitor more than six thousand troubled families on its rolls. Many of their children had been abused or neglected; a few ended up dead." This book is so disturbing and people don't take into account the fact that much of the southwest portions of the US belonged to Mexico until the mid-1800s and the Spanish culture there is embedded into the society.

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