Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992

ANNA DEAVERE SMITH

TWILIGHT

LOS ANGELES, 1992

"An American masterpiece...the heart and soul of an American tragedy, as expressed by the hearts and souls of the people who were part of it."

—JACQUELINE KROLL, NEWSWEEK

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Synopsis

Anna Deavere Smith’s stunning new work of "documentary theater" in which she uses verbatim the words of people who experienced the Los Angeles riots to expose and explore the devastating human impact of that event.

Book Information

Paperback: 265 pages  
Publisher: Anchor; 1 edition (March 15, 1994)  
Language: English  
ISBN-10: 0385473761  
Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.7 x 8 inches  
Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)  
Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars  
Best Sellers Rank: #10,033 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)  
History & Criticism > Genres & Styles > Drama  
Literature > American Literature  
United States > Classics

Customer Reviews

I had the extreme pleasure of sitting in two classes with Ms. Smith as she talked about Twilight. It is a wonderful work with a documentary foundation that educates you on the happenings during the infamous Los Angeles riots, from Korean shopkeepers to Black gang members to White-male politicians--Smith has made sure every reader gets the full spectrum of views. Each monologue is actually an interview Smith personally conducted; each are placed in an order that somehow manages to flow together to tell a collective story of an unfortunate occurrence in recent American history and justice. It will remind you that the passions of the event had personal roots for all involved.

Even though the reading of this book can’t really capture all of the essence of seeing it staged, Anna Deveare Smith’s Twilight is still something that should be bought. She takes interviews and performs the people exactly the way they are in order to reveal a truth. It’s very moving.

This play offers the viewer a chance to reflect on recent history in California. It is an intelligent look at the discussion of race in America. Any chance for thoughtful self-evaluation is an opportunity to
grow and learn. Anna Deavere Smith's work is grand.

It's about the L.A. Riots. It was assigned by my school. It is an interesting narrative style that jumps between different viewpoints. I would suggest just watching the PBS special online, you won't miss anything.

Anna Deavere Smith truly brought out what the LA riots of 1992 were about. She shows us how blind we can all be, how an action of one person can actually cause the suffering of another for the rest of their lives. It was scary to think that this could have happened anywhere, or anytime. She showed us that sometimes, we have to open out eyes and watch was is going on around us. It was a great experience. The characters touched me deeply. I recommend it to everyone.

A brilliant and provocative work, one that truly captures the American conscious during a benchmark moment in our history. Lest we forget ourselves in the years to come, we have "Twilight" to help us reflect and remember

I read this book in my English 1A class. It was easy to read and very interesting. The 1992 events of Los Angeles are evoked from so many points of view. It shows how people are divided but still have hope that things are going to improve. For any one which is interested in the riots of 92 or making research on the subject, this book is a "must have".

This is a must read if you really want to understand Los Angeles and the fabric that connets communities.

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