

twilight los angeles 1992

Twilight Los Angeles 1992: A Powerful Reflection on a City's Breaking Point

twilight los angeles 1992 is more than just a title; it represents a poignant exploration of one of the most turbulent moments in modern American history. This groundbreaking play and its subsequent adaptations delve deeply into the aftermath of the 1992 Los Angeles riots, offering a multifaceted look at the social, racial, and political tensions that ignited the unrest. Whether you're a history buff, theater enthusiast, or someone interested in social justice, understanding twilight los angeles 1992 provides invaluable insights into the complexities of urban conflict and the enduring quest for racial equality.

The Origins of Twilight Los Angeles 1992

Twilight Los Angeles 1992 was written by Anna Deavere Smith, an acclaimed actress and playwright known for her documentary-style works that blend verbatim theater with powerful storytelling. The play premiered in 1993 and quickly gained recognition for its unique approach to dramatizing real-life events.

The Catalyst: The Rodney King Incident

At the heart of twilight los angeles 1992 lies the Rodney King beating and the subsequent acquittal of the police officers involved. In March 1991, Rodney King, an African American man, was brutally beaten by Los Angeles police officers after a high-speed chase. The incident was caught on videotape and broadcast nationwide, sparking outrage. The verdict in April 1992, which acquitted the officers, was the trigger that unleashed six days of riots, looting, and violence across the city.

Anna Deavere Smith's Methodology

What sets twilight los angeles 1992 apart is Smith's method of creating the play. She conducted over 300 interviews with a diverse range of people affected by the riots, including victims, police officers, community leaders, and witnesses. Using these firsthand accounts, Smith crafted monologues that she performs herself, embodying each individual with remarkable authenticity. This technique not only humanizes the crisis but also reveals the layers of conflict, misunderstanding, and pain that defined the events.

Exploring the Themes of Twilight Los Angeles 1992

Twilight Los Angeles 1992 is rich with themes that resonate beyond the immediate context of the riots. The play offers a mirror reflecting issues that continue to challenge America today.

Race and Inequality

One of the most prominent themes is racial tension and systemic inequality. The LA riots were not just about one verdict but a culmination of years of racial discrimination, economic disparity, and police brutality. Smith's play gives voice to various communities—Black, Korean, Latino, and white Angelenos—each expressing their perspectives and frustrations. This multiplicity of voices helps audiences understand the complexity of race relations in urban America.

Justice and Accountability

Another important theme is the pursuit of justice and the public's response when justice seems elusive. The play captures the anger and despair that follow the court's decision, highlighting the fragile trust between marginalized communities and law enforcement. It also raises questions about how societies can rebuild and heal after such profound breaches of trust.

The Power of Storytelling

Twilight Los Angeles 1992 demonstrates the power of storytelling as a tool for empathy and dialogue. By presenting real voices and stories, it challenges audiences to confront uncomfortable truths and reconsider their own biases. This approach underscores the role of art in social commentary and change.

The Cultural Impact and Legacy

Since its debut, twilight los angeles 1992 has left a lasting imprint on American theater and social discourse. Its relevance extends far beyond the 1992 riots, influencing how artists and activists approach issues of race and community conflict.

Theatrical Innovations

Smith's use of verbatim theater helped popularize documentary drama, inspiring other playwrights and performers to adopt similar approaches. The play is often studied in academic settings for its innovative blend of journalism and performance art, making it a staple in discussions about documentary theater and social justice.

Educational Importance

Many schools and universities incorporate *Twilight Los Angeles 1992* into their curricula to teach about the LA riots and broader issues of race relations and civic responsibility. The play's firsthand accounts serve as a powerful educational tool, fostering critical thinking about history and contemporary social challenges.

Adaptations and Performances

The play has been adapted into a television film and continues to be performed around the world. Each performance brings renewed attention to the issues it raises, reminding audiences that the struggles depicted are not confined to the past but are ongoing concerns in many urban communities.

Understanding the 1992 Los Angeles Riots Through *Twilight Los Angeles 1992*

To truly grasp the significance of *Twilight Los Angeles 1992*, it helps to understand the broader context of the 1992 LA riots themselves.

Social and Economic Factors

Los Angeles in the early 1990s was a city marked by deep divisions. Economic disparities were stark, with many neighborhoods suffering from poverty and lack of opportunity. Tensions between different ethnic communities, particularly between African Americans and Korean Americans, were high. These underlying issues created a volatile environment that exploded after the Rodney King verdict.

The Scale and Aftermath of the Riots

The riots lasted for six days, resulting in over 50 deaths, thousands of injuries, and widespread destruction of property. Entire neighborhoods were burned, and the economic toll was staggering. The event forced the city and the nation to confront uncomfortable realities about race relations, policing, and urban policy.

Why Twilight Los Angeles 1992 Still Matters Today

More than three decades later, twilight los angeles 1992 remains a relevant and vital work. The issues it grapples with—racial injustice, police violence, and community fragmentation—are unfortunately still prevalent in many parts of the United States and the world.

Lessons on Empathy and Understanding

By listening to the voices of those directly impacted by the riots, audiences learn the importance of empathy in addressing social conflicts. Twilight los angeles 1992 encourages us to look beyond headlines and statistics and to understand the human stories behind social unrest.

Inspiration for Social Change

The play serves as a call to action, inspiring artists, activists, and policymakers to engage in honest dialogues about race and justice. It reminds us that healing requires not only acknowledging past wrongs but also actively working towards systemic change.

A Timeless Reminder of the Power of Art

Twilight Los Angeles 1992 exemplifies how art can capture the complexities of real events and foster meaningful conversations. Its ongoing relevance speaks to the enduring power of theater as a tool for social reflection and transformation.

Whether you encounter twilight los angeles 1992 through a live performance, a reading, or a film adaptation, engaging with this work offers a profound understanding of one of America's most significant urban crises. It challenges us to remember, to empathize, and to strive for a more just and equitable society.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992' about?

'Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992' is a one-woman play by Anna Deavere Smith that explores the 1992 Los Angeles riots following the Rodney King verdict through a series of interviews with people affected by the events.

Who wrote 'Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992'?

The play was written by Anna Deavere Smith, an American actress, playwright, and professor known for her documentary theater style.

What inspired Anna Deavere Smith to create 'Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992'?

Anna Deavere Smith was inspired by the 1992 Los Angeles riots and conducted over 300 interviews with various individuals to create a nuanced portrayal of the social and racial tensions during that time.

How does 'Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992' present its story?

The play uses verbatim theatre techniques, where Anna Deavere Smith performs multiple characters based on real interviews, providing multiple perspectives on the events surrounding the LA riots.

When did 'Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992' premiere?

'Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992' premiered in 1993, shortly after the events it depicts, allowing it to capture the contemporary social climate.

What themes are explored in 'Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992'?

The play explores themes of racial injustice, police brutality, community conflict, and the complexity of identity in Los Angeles during the early 1990s.

Has 'Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992' received any awards or critical acclaim?

Yes, the play received critical acclaim and several awards, including a Drama Desk Award for Outstanding One-Person Show, and solidified Anna Deavere Smith's reputation in theater.

Is 'Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992' available in formats other than theater?

Yes, the play has been adapted into a film and is also available in published script form for reading and study.

Why is 'Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992' still relevant today?

'Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992' remains relevant because it addresses systemic racism and social unrest issues that continue to resonate in contemporary society.

Where can I watch or read 'Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992'?

The play script is available in bookstores and libraries, and recordings of performances or film adaptations can sometimes be found through theater archives or streaming platforms.

Additional Resources

Twilight Los Angeles 1992: A Critical Examination of a Pivotal Moment in American History

twilight los angeles 1992 refers to a seminal theatrical work and a historical moment that encapsulates the complex social, racial, and political dynamics of early 1990s Los Angeles. The phrase most notably connects to Anna Deavere Smith's renowned play "Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992," which offers a riveting exploration of the aftermath of the 1992 Los Angeles riots. This article delves into the significance of the event and Smith's work, analyzing its impact on public discourse, representation of diverse voices, and its continued relevance in understanding urban unrest and race relations in America.

Understanding Twilight Los Angeles 1992: Context and Content

The term twilight Los Angeles 1992 is inseparable from the Los Angeles riots that erupted in April 1992 following the acquittal of four LAPD officers involved in the videotaped beating of Rodney King, an African American motorist. This civil unrest exposed deep-rooted racial tensions, economic disparities, and systemic issues in law enforcement that had been simmering beneath the surface for decades.

Anna Deavere Smith's play, which premiered in 1993, serves as a powerful artistic response to these events. Instead of a traditional narrative, Smith created a one-woman show based on hundreds of interviews with participants and witnesses from all sides of the conflict – including victims, police officers, activists, and politicians. By performing these voices herself, Smith presents a multifaceted tapestry of perspectives that challenge audiences to confront uncomfortable truths about race, justice, and community.

The Historical Background of the 1992 Los Angeles Riots

The 1992 Los Angeles riots, also known as the Rodney King riots or the South Central riots, lasted for six days and resulted in 63 deaths, thousands of injuries, and widespread property damage exceeding \$1 billion. The unrest was sparked by a jury's decision to acquit four white officers accused of using excessive force against King, whose brutal beating had been caught on video and widely broadcast.

The underlying issues behind the riots included:

- Longstanding racial discrimination and police brutality, especially against African American and Latino communities.
- Economic inequality and high unemployment rates in South Central Los Angeles.
- Fractured relationships between law enforcement agencies and minority residents.
- Social and political marginalization of minority voices in city governance.

These factors created a volatile atmosphere where the verdict was the catalyst for explosive public outrage.

Anna Deavere Smith's Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992 – A Theatrical Investigation

Anna Deavere Smith's approach to documenting twilight Los Angeles 1992 stands out for its journalistic rigor combined with artistic innovation. Her methodology – verbatim theatre – involves transcribing interviews word-for-word and embodying each character's voice and mannerisms on stage. This

technique lends authenticity and immediacy to the portrayal, enabling audiences to engage empathetically with the diverse experiences that shaped the riots.

Key Features of the Play

- **Multiplicity of Perspectives:** Smith performs over 30 characters, ranging from black community members and Korean-American store owners to white police officers and political figures, highlighting the multi-ethnic complexity of Los Angeles.
- **Nonlinear Narrative:** The play does not follow a chronological sequence but rather weaves together testimonies that reveal the underlying causes and effects of the riots.
- **Focus on Dialogue:** Instead of dramatizing events, the play emphasizes spoken word, allowing the voices of real people to take center stage.
- **Exploration of Identity and Justice:** The performance probes questions of racial identity, systemic injustice, and the search for understanding in a fractured society.

The Impact on Theater and Social Commentary

Twilight Los Angeles 1992 redefined documentary theater by proving that factual recounting of events could be compelling and theatrical without sacrificing nuance. The play opened conversations about race relations in the United States and the role of art in social justice. It has been used in educational contexts, community dialogues, and policy discussions as a tool to explore difficult topics surrounding race, policing, and urban poverty.

Broader Implications of Twilight Los Angeles 1992

The significance of twilight Los Angeles 1992 extends beyond the stage or the historical event alone. It invites consideration of how societies remember and process traumatic events, especially those involving racial conflict.

Racial Dynamics and Media Representation

The 1992 riots were among the first major civil disturbances to be broadcast live on television, shaping public perception in real time. Media coverage often focused on violence and looting, sometimes overshadowing the systemic issues that fueled the unrest. Smith's play counters this by amplifying marginalized voices and offering context that challenges simplistic narratives.

Comparisons to Other Urban Unrest in U.S. History

When compared to earlier incidents like the Watts riots of 1965 or later episodes such as the Ferguson unrest in 2014, twilight Los Angeles 1992 stands as a pivotal moment in the evolving discourse on racial justice. It reflects both progress and persistent challenges regarding police accountability, community relations, and institutional reform.

Lessons for Contemporary Society

Analyzing twilight Los Angeles 1992 provides valuable insights for policymakers, activists, and citizens grappling with similar issues today:

- The importance of listening to diverse community voices to understand complex social problems.
- The role of systemic inequalities in triggering unrest.
- The need for transparent and accountable law enforcement practices.
- The power of art and storytelling in fostering empathy and dialogue.

Accessing Twilight Los Angeles 1992 Today

For those interested in exploring this topic further, "Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992" remains accessible through various formats:

- **Published Script:** The play's script is widely available and used in academic settings.
- **Performances:** Theater companies frequently stage the play, often updating the context to reflect ongoing racial dynamics.

- **Documentaries and Interviews:** Anna Deavere Smith has participated in numerous interviews and panels discussing the work and its legacy.

These resources continue to provide critical perspectives on an event that shaped Los Angeles and national conversations about race and justice.

The phrase twilight Los Angeles 1992 encapsulates much more than a riot or a theatrical production; it represents a complex crossroads of American social history. Through investigative storytelling and multi-vocal narratives, it challenges audiences to confront uncomfortable realities and consider pathways toward greater understanding in a fractured society.

Twilight Los Angeles 1992

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twilight los angeles 1992: Professing Performance Shannon Jackson, 2004-04-08 Today's academic discourse is filled with the word 'perform'. Nestled amongst a variety of prefixes and suffixes (re-, post-, -ance, -ivity?), the term functions as a vehicle for a host of contemporary inquiries. For students, artists, and scholars of performance and theatre, this development is intriguing and complex. By examining the history of theatre studies and related institutions and by comparing the very different disciplinary interpretations and developments that led to this engagement, Professing Performance offers ways of placing performance theory and performance studies in context.

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twilight los angeles 1992: Play - ritual - representation Ingrid Hentschel, Klaus Hoffmann, 2005

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STORY: Acclaimed as an American masterpiece (Newsweek), TWILIGHT: LOS ANGELES, 1992 is a stunning new work of documentary theatre in which Anna Deavere Smith uses the verbatim words of people who experienced the Los Angeles riots to

twilight los angeles 1992: *The Routledge History of Police Brutality in America* Thomas Aiello, 2023-04-11 This handbook offers a comprehensive historical overview and analysis of police brutality in US history and the variety of ways it has manifested itself. Police brutality has been a defining controversy of the modern age, brought into focus most readily by the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis and the mass protests that occurred as a result in 2020. However, the problem of police brutality has been consistent throughout American history. This volume traces its history back to Antebellum slavery, through the Gilded Age, the Progressive Era, the two world wars and the twentieth century, to the present day. This handbook is designed to create a generally holistic picture of the phenomenon of police brutality in the United States in all of its major lived forms and confronts a wide range of topics including: Race Ethnicity Gender Police reactions to protest movements (particularly as they relate to the counterculture and opposition to the Vietnam War) Legal and legislative outgrowths against police brutality The representations of police brutality in popular culture forms like film and music The role of technology in publicizing such abuses, and the protest movements mounted against it The Routledge History of Police Brutality in America will provide a vital reference work for students and scholars of American history, African American history, criminal justice, sociology, anthropology, and Africana studies.

twilight los angeles 1992: *Race Sounds* Nicole Brittingham Furlonge, 2018-05-15 Forging new ideas about the relationship between race and sound, Furlonge explores how black artists—including well-known figures such as writers Ralph Ellison and Zora Neale Hurston, and singers Bettye LaVette and Aretha Franklin, among others—imagine listening. Drawing from a multimedia archive, Furlonge examines how many of the texts call on readers to listen in print. In the process, she gives us a new way to read and interpret these canonical, aurally inflected texts, and demonstrates how listening allows us to engage with the sonic lives of difference as readers, thinkers, and citizens.

twilight los angeles 1992: *Erzählen über Gesellschaft* Howard S. Becker, 2019-09-14 Howard S. Becker zählt zu den wichtigsten US-amerikanischen Soziologen der Gegenwart. Sein umfangreiches Werk umspannt weit mehr als ein halbes Jahrhundert und steht in der Tradition der interaktionistischen und interpretativen Soziologie, wie sie an der University of Chicago in den 1920er Jahren begründet wurde. Becker hat nicht nur höchst einflussreiche Schriften u.a. zur soziologischen Methodologie, zur Soziologie der Professionen, des Abweichenden Verhaltens und der Kunst vorgelegt, die allesamt zu Klassikern wurden, sondern gehört auch zu den frühen Pionieren und Wegbereitern der soziologischen Auseinandersetzung mit visuellen und anderen künstlerischen Ausdrucksformen. Der vorliegende Band präsentiert nun zum ersten Mal in deutscher Sprache seine umfassenden vergleichenden Reflexionen dazu, was das soziologische „Erzählen über Gesellschaft“ mit anderen, künstlerischen Erzählformaten gemeinsam hat - und was es davon unterscheidet. Sein leidenschaftliches Plädoyer für eine präzise Soziologie verbindet sich darin disziplinüberschreitend mit einer anregenden Diskussion von künstlerischen Formen der Darstellung gesellschaftlicher Phänomene und den vielfältigen Möglichkeiten, die sich daraus auch für die soziologische Phantasie ergeben, ihre Erzählungen über Gesellschaftliches nicht nur diesseits, sondern vor allem auch jenseits ihrer kanonisierten Formate vorzustellen.

twilight los angeles 1992: *Teaching Crime Fiction* Charlotte Beyer, 2018-07-18 More than perhaps any other genre, crime fiction invites debate over the role of popular fiction in English studies. This book offers lively original essays on teaching crime fiction written by experienced British and international scholar teachers, providing vital insight into this diverse genre through a series of compelling subjects. Taking its starting-point in pedagogical reflections and classroom experiences, the book explores methods for teaching students to develop their own critical perspectives as crime fiction critics, the impact of feminism, postcolonialism, and ecocriticism on crime fiction, crime fiction and film, the crime short story, postgraduate perspectives, and more.

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complex engagements with issues of identity in the performances of the artists Adrian Piper, Eleanor Antin, Anna Deavere Smith, and Nikki S. Lee.

twilight los angeles 1992: *Casting a Movement* Claire Syler, Daniel Banks, 2019-07-17 *Casting a Movement* brings together US-based actors, directors, educators, playwrights, and scholars to explore the cultural politics of casting. Drawing on the notion of a welcome table—a space where artists of all backgrounds can come together as equals to create theatre—the book's contributors discuss casting practices as they relate to varying communities and contexts, including Middle Eastern American theatre, Disability culture, multilingual performance, Native American theatre, color- and culturally-conscious casting, and casting as a means to dismantle stereotypes. Syler and Banks suggest that casting is a way to invite more people to the table so that the full breadth of US identities can be reflected onstage, and that casting is inherently a political act; because an actor's embodied presence both communicates a dramatic narrative and evokes cultural assumptions associated with appearance, skin color, gender, sexuality, and ability, casting choices are never neutral. By bringing together a variety of artistic perspectives to discuss common goals and particular concerns related to casting, this volume features the insights and experiences of a broad range of practitioners and experts across the field. As a resource-driven text suitable for both practitioners and academics, *Casting a Movement* seeks to frame and mobilize a social movement focused on casting, access, and representation. Chapter 2 of this book is freely available as a downloadable Open Access PDF at <http://www.taylorfrancis.com> under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial-No Derivatives (CC-BY-NC-ND) 4.0 license.

twilight los angeles 1992: *Worldmaking* Dorinne Kondo, 2018-12-06 In this bold, innovative work, Dorinne Kondo theorizes the racialized structures of inequality that pervade theater and the arts. Grounded in twenty years of fieldwork as dramaturg and playwright, Kondo mobilizes critical race studies, affect theory, psychoanalysis, and dramatic writing to trenchantly analyze theater's work of creativity as theory: acting, writing, dramaturgy. Race-making occurs backstage in the creative process and through economic forces, institutional hierarchies, hiring practices, ideologies of artistic transcendence, and aesthetic form. For audiences, the arts produce racial affect—structurally over-determined ways affect can enhance or diminish life. Upending genre through scholarly interpretation, vivid vignettes, and Kondo's original play, *Worldmaking* journeys from an initial romance with theater that is shattered by encounters with racism, toward what Kondo calls reparative creativity in the work of minoritarian artists Anna Deavere Smith, David Henry Hwang, and the author herself. *Worldmaking* performs the potential for the arts to remake worlds, from theater worlds to psychic worlds to worldmaking visions for social transformation.

twilight los angeles 1992: *Gender and Women's Leadership* Karen O'Connor, 2010-08-18 These volumes provide an authoritative reference resource on leadership issues specific to women and gender, with a focus on positive aspects and opportunities for leadership in various domains.

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twilight los angeles 1992: *Teacher Education for Democracy and Social Justice* David Keiser Lee, 2005-01-26 Examines just how the important goals of educating for democracy can be achieved from the perspective of those working in teacher education and in P-12 schools.

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interdisciplinary and creative study examines how African American culture is presented in American films and other media. The author examines and interprets a number of cultural texts deriving memory as interpreted by Freud and by Franz Fanon, mixed with Black Liberation Theology and Islamic mysticism.

twilight los angeles 1992: *In the Lurch* Ryan Claycomb, 2023-01-18 Some of theater's most powerful works in the past thirty years fall into the category of verbatim theater, socially engaged performances whose texts rely on word-for-word testimony. Performances such as *Fires in the Mirror*, *The Laramie Project*, and *The Vagina Monologues* have at their best demonstrated how to hold hard conversations about explosive subjects in a liberal democracy. But in this moment of what author Ryan Claycomb terms the "rightward lurch" of western democracies, does this idealized space of democratic deliberation remain effective? *In the Lurch* asks that question in a pointed and self-reflexive way, tracing the history of this branch of documentary theater with particular attention to the political outcomes and stances these performances seem to seek. But this is not just a disinterested history—Claycomb reflects on his own participation in that political fantasy, including earlier scholarly writing that articulated with breathless hopefulness the potential of verbatim theater, and on his own theatrical attendance, imbued with a belief that witnessing this idealized public sphere was a substitute for actual public participation. *In the Lurch* also recounts the bumpy path towards its completion, two years marked by presidential impeachments, an insurrection, a national reckoning with racism, and a global pandemic. At the heart of the book is a central question: is verbatim theater any longer an effective cultural response to what can look like the possible end of democracy?

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twilight los angeles 1992: Dismemberment in Drama / Dismemberment of Drama Lance Norman, 2021-02-03 *Dismemberment in Drama / Dismemberment of Drama* is an essay collection which considers the dramatic possibility contained in the images and narratives of dismemberment frequently recurring on the western stage. The Classical Tragedies of Sophocles and Euripides, the Romanticism of Kleist, the surrealism of Artaud, and the contemporary drama of Suzan-Lori Parks and Marina Carr are just some of the fractured and fragmented bodies analyzed in this collection. Both individually and in concert the contributors ask what a dismembered body means. Such an inquiry allows them to confront dismemberment as a theoretical category which understands such twentieth-century innovations as the Theatre of Cruelty, the Epic Theatre, the Open Theater, and documentary theatre as part of a long dramatic tradition. *Dismemberment in drama* examines the tenuous bond between representation and the object being represented by highlighting the dismemberment of drama as a form that occurs during drama's repeated theorizations of its own enactment. There is a conflict between disintegration and unity inherent in mimesis, theatrical phenomenology, and performance.

twilight los angeles 1992: *Blue Dreams* Nancy ABELMANN, John Lie, Nancy Abelman, 2009-06-30 No one will soon forget the image, blazed across the airwaves, of armed Korean Americans taking to the rooftops as their businesses went up in flames during the Los Angeles riots. Why Korean Americans? What stoked the wrath the riots unleashed against them? *Blue Dreams* is the first book to make sense of these questions, to show how Korean Americans, variously depicted as immigrant seekers after the American dream or as racist merchants exploiting African Americans, emerged at the crossroads of conflicting social reflections in the aftermath of the 1992 riots. The situation of Los Angeles's Korean Americans touches on some of the most vexing issues facing American society today: ethnic conflict, urban poverty, immigration, multiculturalism, and ideological polarization. Combining interviews and deft socio-historical analysis, *Blue Dreams* gives these problems a human face and at the same time clarifies the historical, political, and economic factors that render them so complex. In the lives and voices of Korean Americans, the authors locate a profound challenge to cherished assumptions about the United States and its minorities. Why did Koreans come to the United States? Why did they set up shop in poor inner-city neighborhoods? Are

they in conflict with African Americans? These are among the many difficult questions the authors answer as they probe the transnational roots and diversity of Los Angeles's Korean Americans. Their work finally shows us in sharp relief and moving detail a community that, despite the blinding media focus brought to bear during the riots, has nonetheless remained largely silent and effectively invisible. An important corrective to the formulaic accounts that have pitted Korean Americans against African Americans, *Blue Dreams* places the Korean American story squarely at the center of national debates over race, class, culture, and community. Table of Contents: Preface The Los Angeles Riots, the Korean American Story Reckoning via the Riots Diaspora Formation: Modernity and Mobility Mapping the Korean Diaspora in Los Angeles Korean American Entrepreneurship American Ideologies on Trial Conclusion Notes References Index Reviews of this book: *Blue Dreams*--a poetic allusion to the clear blue sky that Koreans see as a symbol of freedom--is a welcome exploration by outsiders into the vexing and largely invisible Korean-American predicament in Los Angeles and the nation. [Abelmann and Lie 's] colorful interview subjects offer sharp observations. --K.W. Lee, *Los Angeles Times* Reviews of this book: An informed and thoughtful examination of Korean immigration to the United States since 1970...[Abelmann and Lie] show that even in a period as short as twenty-five years, there have been successive waves of differently motivated, differently resourced Korean immigrants, and their experiences and reactions have differed accordingly. --Michael Tonry, *Times Literary Supplement* Reviews of this book: [The authors'] transnational perspective is particularly effective for explicating Korean immigrants' behaviors, activities, and feelings...Interesting and readable. --Pyong Gap Min, *American Journal of Sociology* Reviews of this book: Beginning with a poetic book title, the authors recount in depth as to how the 'Blue Dreams' of the Korean-American merchants in East Los Angeles had shattered in the midst of [the] 1992 riot that turned out to be 'elusive dreams' in America...The book not only portrays the L.A. riot surrounding the Korean merchants, but also characterizes diaspora of the Koreans in America. The authors have also examined with scholarly insights the more complex socioeconomic and political underplay the Koreans encountered in their 'Promised New Land'. --Eugene C. Kim, *International Migration Review*

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