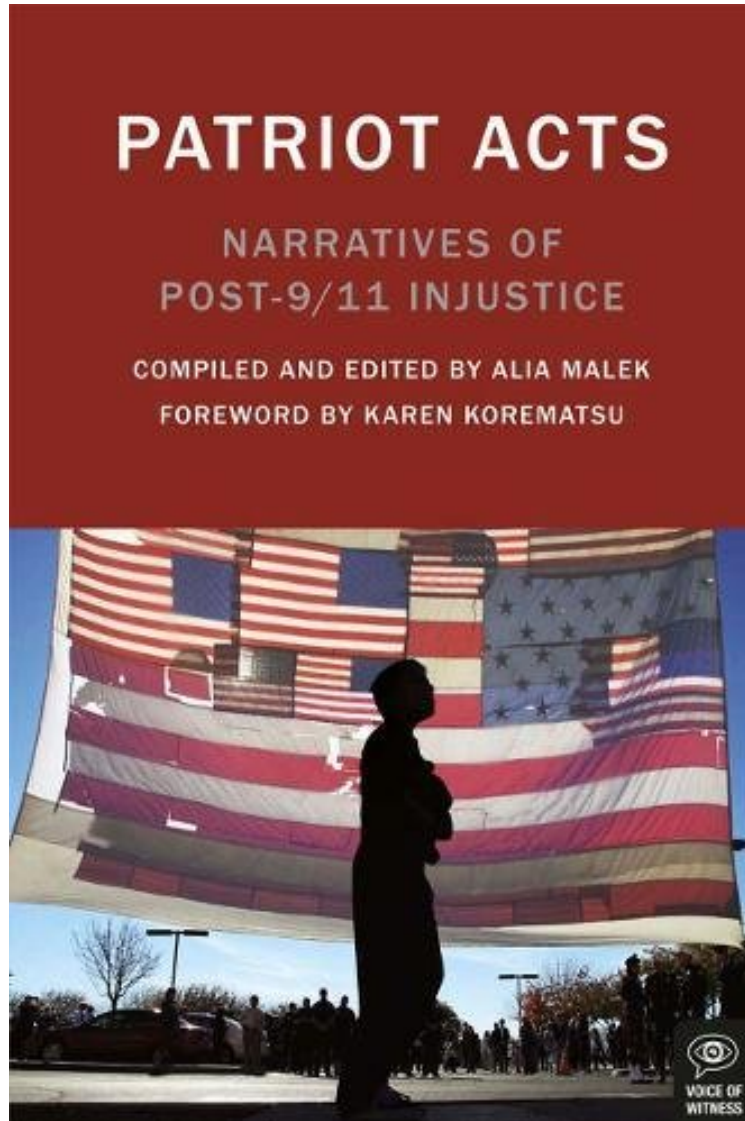


[Download pdf ebook] Patriot Acts: Narratives of Post-9/11 Injustice (Voice of Witness)

Patriot Acts: Narratives of Post-9/11 Injustice (Voice of Witness)

From McSweeney's

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From McSweeney's : Patriot Acts: Narratives of Post-9/11 Injustice (Voice of Witness) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Patriot Acts: Narratives of Post-9/11 Injustice (Voice of Witness):

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Mac S.By Mac S.The narratives in Patrio Acts deal with one fundamental question: what makes an American? Can Americans wear turbans? Can they pray in public? The narrators in this book are being stripped of their Americanism (which is different than citizenship) and in America, that means they are being stripped of their humanity. I wonder if this tendency to equate Americanism with basic

humanity is unique to the US or if other countries do the same. A trademark of American patriotism is to equate America with freedom and freedom with one's basic rights. But this belief, the supreme confidence Americans have in this idea, relies on that freedom being inseparable from their person and not just from the government. So how do people's freedom get stripped from them so easily in the United States? How is it so easy to draw lines between the Americans that are "American" and the Americans who can be cast out, disavowed, and persecuted? For me, this is the crux of Patriot Acts. The stories are individually striking, heartbreaking, infuriating, and empowering. Together, they depict a strong nation -- that is out of reach for many. Stories like Rana's story show how much recourse there is for action in the government and in nonprofits, however getting to them in any meaningful way appears to be often impossible. Perhaps the most painful accounts in Patriot Acts, for me, were the stories of bullying in schools. They depict so clearly the role of our ignorance as a nation and as individuals. It is both heartbreaking and enraging that teachers, parents, and schools can be the main persecutors in so many of these stories. The stories of Rana and Gurwinder really drove the cultural ignorance home, but also my own ignorance: I reflected on the anger of my muslim or Sikh friends and how naive I was of what they were facing from the rest of the country, even as they were facing persecution in other parts of the world. I'm so glad to have read this book.

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Intolerance and Cruelty in the Aftermath of a Disaster By Nara B. Reading Patriot Acts so many years after the events of 9/11 was an awakening not to be overlooked. It's alarmingly easy to forget things you were hardly aware of in the first place: I was young and far-removed from most of the events, and thus protected from the outrageous prejudice that many of my peers had to face. The stories of post-9/11 injustice exposed by this book from the awesome series Voice of Witness are an important reality check for anyone who has the privilege of taking the discriminatory tendencies of this country lightly. The stories are complex, but the discrimination is simple. Rooted in fear, and exacerbated by media, the paranoia and ill-conceived quest for vengeance that followed 9/11 made life a living hell for ordinary people, from young children to college students to trusted community members. Turbans and hijabs become probable cause, classrooms become centers of intolerance, and basic rights are thrown out the window. The book does an excellent job of demonstrating the wide range of differences among a group of narrators erroneously lumped together by society as "dangerous." Yet at the same time, the commonalities are difficult to ignore - I was shocked and saddened by the pervasiveness of discrimination and ignorance the narrators faced and continue to face. To be entirely honest, by the end of this book the individuals I find myself fearing most are white men in suits.

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An Essential Part of Our 9/11 Narrative By C. Crowe Patriot Acts documents the experiences of Arab and Muslim Americans - or any one who might vaguely pass for one - after 9/11. Some of the stories sound familiar - discrimination in an airport - while others - the sudden and unexplained imprisonment of sixteen-year-old Adama Bah - are shocking. Individual prejudice and institutionalized discrimination are both justified by a sometimes subtle and sometimes not de-Americanizing, and therefore dehumanizing, of the narrators. But after listening to their stories - in which a sense of dignity, strength, and occasionally even humor prevail - the humanity of these people, and this book, cannot be denied.

This book seeks to tell the life stories of the innocent men and women who have been needlessly swept up in the war on terror. As we approach the ten-year anniversary of 9/11, this collection of narratives gives voice to the people who have had their human rights violated here in the U.S. by post-9/11 policies and actions. Among the narrators: Young men of Arab, Muslim, South Asian, and Middle Eastern descent, who were arrested and detained or singled out for voluntary interviews because of their national origin or religion. Scholars who have been blacklisted or subjected to interrogation for their research or writings on Islam and related topics. Muslim women who have suffered from job discrimination, harassment, and assault for wearing a veil or similar head covering.

"Journalist Alia Malek has deftly edited and transcribed a moving collection of true stories in Patriot Acts: Narratives of Post-9/11 Injustice that may help us all ponder more deeply and clearly." Susanne Pari, San Francisco Chronicle

"The narratives collected in this important and timely book will go a long way toward helping us deal with the reality of what we have been through, and where we are going, since the attacks of 9/11." Reza Aslan, author of No god but God: The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam

Gripping. This is an important book that takes us beyond the featureless generalities of the post-9/11 drama to show us the particular experiences of individual human beings, each one living a life unlike any other. Tamim Ansary, author of West of Kabul, East of New York