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Sidewalking: Coming To Terms With Los Angeles



SIDEWALKING

Coming to Terms with Los Angeles

DAVID L. ULIN



Synopsis

In Sidewalking, David L. Ulin offers a compelling inquiry into the evolving landscape of Los Angeles. Part personal narrative, part investigation of the city as both idea and environment, Sidewalking is many things: a discussion of Los Angeles as urban space, a history of the city's built environment, a meditation on the author's relationship to the city, and a rumination on the art of urban walking. Exploring Los Angeles through the soles of his feet, Ulin gets at the experience of its street life, drawing from urban theory, pop culture, and literature. For listeners interested in the culture of Los Angeles, this book offers a pointed look beneath the surface in order to see, and engage with, the city on its own terms.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I liked this book. This book is basically a rumination of one transplant from NY to LA who has lived there for, what I'm guessing, is about 10-20 years. He is someone that used to take public transportation, walk a lot, and he was trying to apply the same mindset and walking options in LA. I can totally relate. I spent some time in LA myself, although a whole lot more recently, and I too was taking public transportation and walking in a car city, and I felt that he was really on point about many things. You really have a different, more direct interaction with the CITY when you're walking than when you're driving. I agree that the city has this mish mosh of OLD and NEW together at the same time, of PUBLIC and PRIVATE together at the same time, and REAL and FAKE at the same time, Indoor/ outdoor space at the same time, etc., the list goes on. Those are EXACTLY some of

the same things I noticed in LA that other cities, like NY don't really have. And I love how those opposite worlds collide, I agree with the author, they make the city **WHAT** it is and make it great. He used a lot of movies, music, and cultural references in his writing, all of which I felt were very relevant. He also used a **LOT** of quotes, esp early on in the book, and I thought those were kind of annoying and didn't really connect well. I thought that he repeated himself a lot, which I wasn't totally against, but a little more diversity in his example and thoughts would have been nice. Although I suppose if you **ARE** ruminating, you **DO** repeat a lot and analyze the **SAME** thing from **MANY ANGLES** which is exactly what he did here. I enjoyed learning a lot of the facts about the city I didn't know. Like I didn't know LACMA didn't originally have an entrance on Wilshire.

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