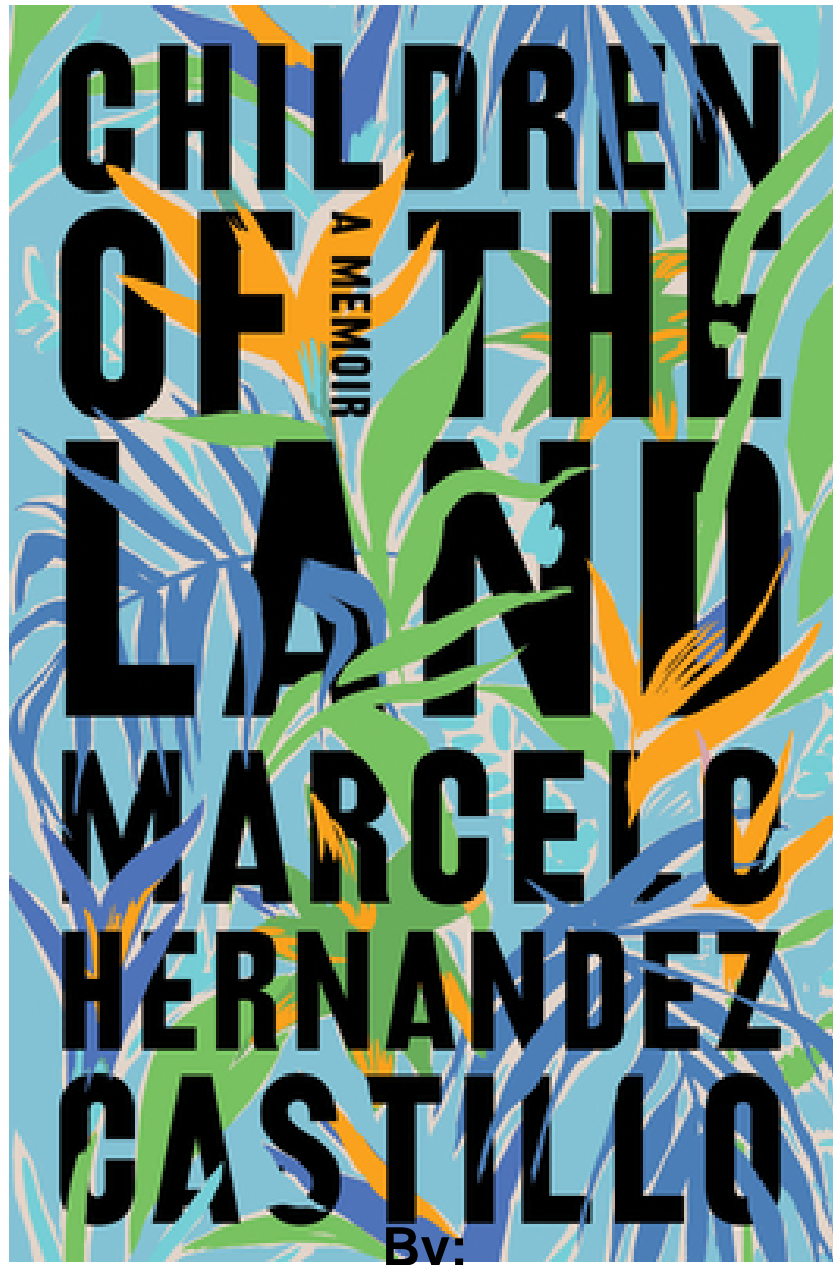


Children of the Land Book PDF Download



By:
Marcelo Hernandez Castillo

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What people Say:

Karen (idleutopia_reads)

A boy almost loses his life when a horse is startled, a man discovers he is bisexual long after marrying his high school sweetheart, a man wishes to wait a while before getting his papers because he is afraid that people will think he only married his love to fix his immigration status, a boy's dream of being safe at home is shattered when ICE comes knocking at his door, a man discourses about loving a country that's constantly pushing against you and hating that country for all its done to your

A boy almost loses his life when a horse is startled, a man discovers he is bisexual long after marrying his high school sweetheart, a man wishes to wait a while before getting his papers because he is afraid that people will think he only married his love to fix his immigration status, a boy's dream of being safe at home is shattered when ICE comes knocking at his door, a man discourses about loving a country that's constantly pushing against you and hating that country for all its done to your family, a boy discovers his body, a boy loses his sight as soon as he crosses the border into the United States and so many other fragments come together to give us a nuanced perspective of the life of Marcelo Hernandez Castillo.

If you want to put a face to the headlines then Marcelo Hernandez Castillo vivisepts his entire life for your voyeurism. It is a consensual look at what this country does to people that are simply seeking a better life and opportunities that are not afforded in their home country. It isn't a story, this is his real life. There is tons of trauma and relentless survival in a country that's constantly treating you like a criminal. It is constant introspection about what it means to be othered, to be criminalized and the energy that's expended to be invisible so that you have a chance to keep on living your life.

Generational trauma, colorism, violence, questioning, guilt, domestic abuse, and toxic masculinity are just a few of the themes that Hernandez Castillo manages to dissect from his life, put into a pensieve and reflect back at how it has all affected his life, his actions and the journey that he has come through.

In response to another review I saw, there is no healing in this book because there is not a moment of respite allowed to people that cross the border. How can there be healing when the wound is constantly reopened? This is the book that lets you know that no, the United States isn't the good guy. The United States persecutes people, dehumanizes them and then makes it impossible to right a legal wrong in order to try to keep the life that you have already built.

The trauma of displacement is thoroughly investigated in this book. It's disorienting to realize that you're unable to find yourself neither here nor there. Hernandez Castillo wastes no imagery, scenes or words because even if something seems random he pulls everything back together in

such a brilliant way. You can tell that this man is a poet based on his prose. I am completely in awe of the pieces of himself that he shared with his reader. Please treat this memoir with the delicacy it deserves. Heâ€™s not trying to represent a mass of people but this is one life that youâ€™re allowed to witness the trauma that comes when you cross the border.

Paris (parisperusing)

No rating at this time. I'm going to make room for this one later. My focus is waning â€” it's definitely not the story, which is beautifully-written; however, it is the size. Tomes scare me, but I'll revisit in time.

Ella

I don't like writing reviews. I don't read books to have something to say about them (stole that from a book I read recently) but b/c I want to read them.

However, this memoir has pushed me to consider trying to review a book. So I'm going to work on that this weekend.

Meanwhile, if you want to read a book about people without documentation living in the US, THIS is THE book of 2020 to read.

Julia Kardon

Marcelo Hernandez Castillo is a poet, and if you haven't read his poetry, you should also do that. But the unbelievable beauty of his verse is present here in his prose, as he lays bare the often Kafkaesque and humiliating experience of growing up in the United States undocumented. Also full of wit and joy, CHILDREN OF THE LAND is a must-read for anyone trying to process the immigrant experience in America.

Kathleen Gray

Amazing, sad, and important. This tale of immigration and a family that simply wants a better life is hard to read in parts because it's true. No doubt we're all familiar with the broad outlines of the undocumented experience but Castillo has captured it in an way that will make you bend your head. That he wanted to be invisible, that his mother went back to Mexico to join his father after the latter was deported, that he has survived even though it has been a painful journey all add up to a

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