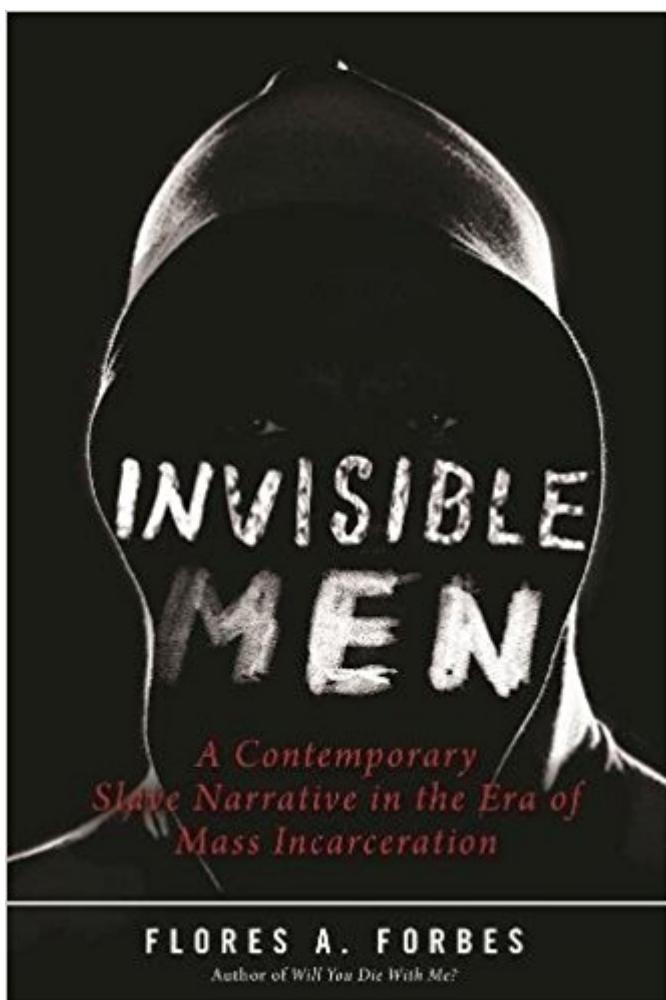


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Invisible Men: A Contemporary Slave Narrative In The Era Of Mass Incarceration



Synopsis

Winner of the 2017 American Book Award Flores Forbes, a former leader in the Black Panther Party, has been free from prison for twenty-five years. Unfortunately that makes him part of a group of black men without constituency who are all but invisible in society. That is, the "invisible" group of black men in America who have served their time and not gone back to prison. Today the recidivism rate is around 65%. Almost never mentioned in the media or scholarly attention is the plight of the 35% who don't go back, especially black men. A few of them are hiding in Ivy League schools' prison education programs; they don't want to be known; but most of them are recruited by the one billion dollar industry reentry employee programs that allow the US to profit from their life and labor. Whereas, African Americans consist of only 12% of the population in the US, black males are incarcerated at much higher rates. The chances of these formerly convicted men to succeed after prison; to matriculate as leading members of society; are increasingly slim. The doors are closed to them. *Invisible Men* is a book that will crack the code on the stigma of incarceration. When Flores Forbes was released from prison, he made a plan to re-invent himself but found it impossible. His involvement in a plan to kill a witness who was testifying against Huey P. Newton, the founder of the Black Panther Party, had led to his incarceration. While in prison he earned a college degree using a Pell Grant, with hope this would get him on the right track and a chance at a normal life. He was released but that's where his story and most invisible men's stories begin. This book will weave Flores' knowledge, wisdom, and experience with incarceration, sentencing reform, judicial inequity, hiding and re-entry into society, and the issue of increasing struggles and inequality for formerly incarcerated men into a collection of poignant essays that finally give invisible men a voice and face in society.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Flores A. Forbes: Flores Forbes is the associate vice president of strategy policy & program implementation at Columbia University and the author of *Will You Die With Me?*

With a forcefulness rarely seen in books that deal with the american prison/industrial complex and using examples from his own life experience Flores Forbes eviscerates one of our most basic (and for some cherished) assumptions: that slavery in America ended with the Civil War. He painstakingly lays out the evidence that the practice persists today in our country masked as legal incarceration and enshrined in the exception clause of the 13th amendment. Forbes describes how men and women (many of them convicted of minor crimes) are forced into industrial servitude, bound by chains, faced with subhuman living conditions and subjected to physical torture if they refuse to comply. He then documents the effect that being "formerly incarcerated" has had on not just him but also on those who seek to regain full citizenship free from the stain of imprisonment. The book implores those of us who are aware of this immoral practice to not sit idly by while it takes place but to get involved in efforts to amend the 13th amendments exception clause so that once a person has paid their debt to society a path to full restoration of their rights as citizens should await them when they are released. I found *Invisible Men :A Contemporary Slave Narrative in the era of Mass Incarceration* to be one of the most compelling books I've ever read and I would encourage those who recognize slavery as a crime of moral turpitude and who also care about the plight of those who are imprisoned to read it as well.

The author with honesty and clarity describes his prison experiences and the difficult and long path that he took to educate himself and integrate himself into society to become a valued employee. Along the way he learned through books and caring mentors the steep steps that former incarcerated people have to climb.

It was very informative.

Good reading

Well written story of how one man re-invented himself after being incarcerated. Lots of facts, analysis and Offers specific suggestions and strategies. Great book for those who are or have been incarcerated and those of us who care about them.

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