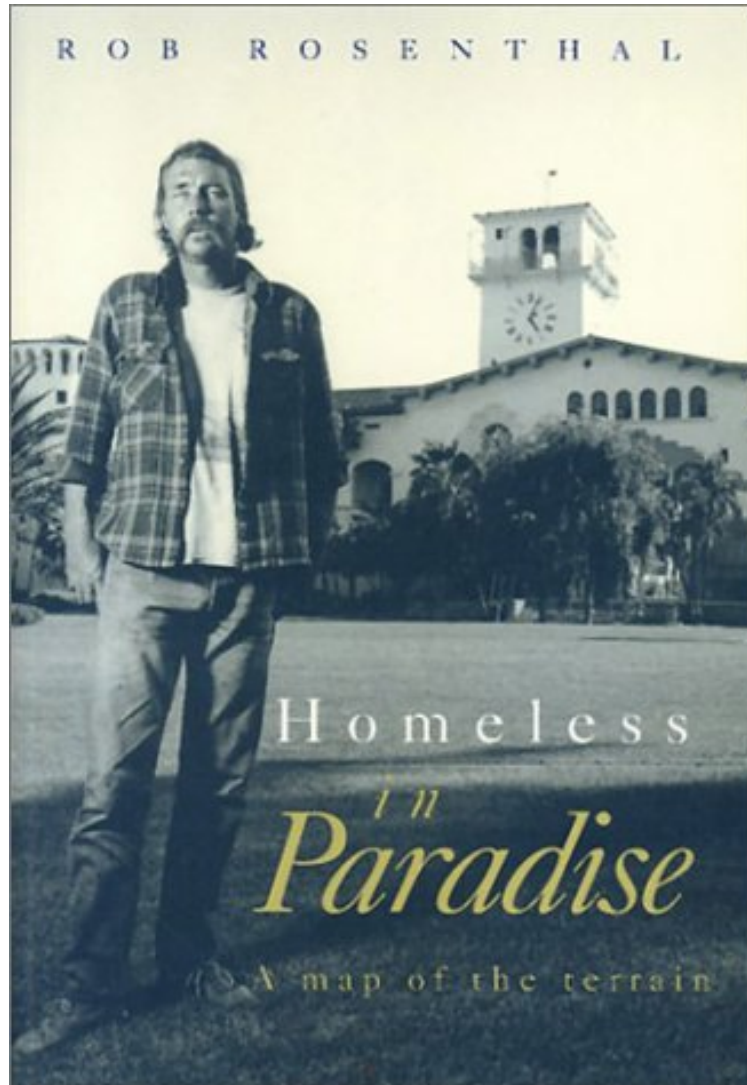


(Free pdf) Homeless In Paradise: A Map of the Terrain

Homeless In Paradise: A Map of the Terrain

Robert Rosenthal

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Robert Rosenthal : Homeless In Paradise: A Map of the Terrain before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Homeless In Paradise: A Map of the Terrain:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. excellent fieldwork....By Craig Chalquist, PhD, author of TERRAPSYCHOLOGY and DEEP CALIFORNIA....including interviews with the homeless as well as excerpts from field notes and personal reactions, all tied into national trends and relevant figures--yet written without academic jargon. I'd like to see more studies like this one. (I lived in Santa Barbara for about a year and have gone to school there for four years, and as a community counselor I did therapy with homeless clients and presented at the Rescue Mission.)

Paradise is Santa Barbara, California, where in the early 1980s the beautiful, affluent city faced the problem of what to do with all the 'street people'. Rob Rosenthal worked with the Homeless People's Project in Santa Barbara and has documented his experiences with forty-four oral histories and numerous interviews. His portraits challenge the traditional view of the homeless as 'slackers', hopeless victims, and loners. Instead, he portrays active agents attempting to preserve networks and obtain resources essential for managing and escaping homelessness. Emphasizing that one cannot understand individual homelessness without understanding its social roots, Rosenthal traces how people lose their homes, how they acquire the street knowledge to survive, and how they develop affiliations with each other and with housed people and mainstream institutions. People do not willingly choose homelessness, he argues. "Homeless in Paradise" carries with it a stinging indictment of irrational federal policies that intensify the problems of poverty, unemployment, and lack of human services. Rosenthal proposes a number of ways to deal with homelessness on federal, state, and local levels, contending that if we can understand how the nightmare of homelessness can exist in Paradise, we might have a better idea of what might be done about it elsewhere. Author note: Rob Rosenthal is Associate Professor of Sociology at Wesleyan University. For five years, he conducted the Homeless People's Project in Santa Barbara, California.

"Homeless in Paradise combines participant-observation data, interviews, and analysis of structural data to produce one of the best books I have read on homelessness." Elliot Liebow