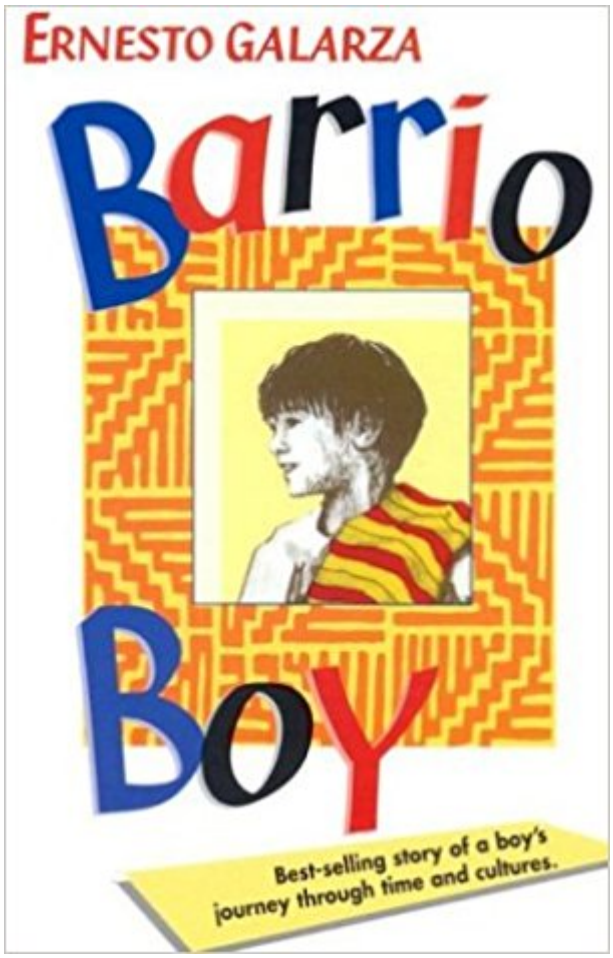
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Barrio Boy



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Synopsis

Barrio Boy is the remarkable story of one boy’s journey from a Mexican village so small its main street didn’t have a name, to the barrio of Sacramento, California, bustling and thriving in the early decades of the twentieth century. Galarza’s saga begins in JalcocotÃƒÂ¡n, a mountain village just south of where the Gulf of California joins the Pacific. When the turmoil precipitated by the Mexican Revolution begins to escalate, the family leaves their tiny village in search of safety and work in a nearby city. Subsequent moves introduce the boy to the growing turbulence of the Revolution and the uncertainties of city life. He experiences firsthand the difficulties in finding work in a strife-torn nation, securing an education, and keeping a close-knit family intact. When his family finally settles in Sacramento, young Ernesto encounters new experiences and influences that will forever shape his outlook and broaden his horizons. With vivid imagery and a rare gift for re-creating a child’s sense of time and place, Galarza gives an account of the early experiences of his extraordinary life that will continue to delight readers for decades to come. "Ernesto Galarza has written a long and vivid memoir of his childhood. The only disappointment in the book is that it does not go on for another couple of volumes to recount its author’s rare career in redefining America." —The New York Review of Books "With its suspense, humor, and occasional sadness, Barrio Boy is splendid reading." —American Anthropologist "[A] personal document where historical self-explanation, philosophical self-analysis, and poetic self-expression merge to tell with irony and humor a social story: an individual’s participation in one of the grandest migrations of modern times—the influx of Mexicans into the American Southwest." —Diacritics

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“In 1971, at the age of sixty-six, the labour activist, educator and scholar Ernesto Galarza (1905-1984) published Barrio Boy, a memoir of the long migration of his family from a small village in the Sierra Madre to California. Barrio Boy immediately became a classic of Chicano literature, and on its fortieth anniversary has now been published in a new edition with an introduction by the critic, biographer and short-story writer Ilan Stavans.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Times Literary SupplementÃ Â Ã¢â ¬Å“GalarzaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s book is about growing upÃ¢â ¬â •first in Mexico, then in America. To this reader, it is on the same artistic level as Black Boy or Call It Sleep or even Huckleberry Finn. . . . As with Wright and Roth and Twain, we are given a near-perfect tale of rising from absolute poverty to middle-class security, but instead of a woeful recounting, it is filled with the joy of discovery: from living in the lively muddy streets of a small village in Nayarit to surviving, wide-eyed, in the lively and noisy barrios of Sacramento.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •RALPH: The Review of Arts, Literature, Philosophy and the HumanitiesÃ Â Ã¢â ¬Å“The 40th anniversary edition of GalarzaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s book, now a standard text in high school and college classrooms, has become so popular that it has . . . achieved the dubious honor of being the subject of study guides and essays available for purchase online.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Occidental College --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Born in JalcocotÃƒÂ¡n, Nayarit, Mexico, ERNESTO GALARZA (1905–1984) was a civil rights and labor activist, a scholar, and a pioneer during the decades when Mexican Americans had few public advocates. When he was eight, he migrated to Sacramento, California, where he worked as a farm laborer. One of Stanford’s first Chicano alumni, Galarza received an M.A. in 1929, and a Ph.D. in history from Columbia University in 1944. He returned to California where, during the 1950s, he joined the effort to create the first multiracial farm worker union, which set the foundation for the emergence of the United Farm Workers Union of the 1960s. His books most notably include the 1964 Merchants of Labor, on the exploitation of Mexican contract workers, and the 1971 Barrio Boy. In 1979, Dr. Galarza was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature.

This fascinating, wonderfully told book’s title is misleading if it makes you expect the story of a simple Mexican peasant boy with a chicken or two and short horizons. This kid’s "barrio" turned out to be a very large part of the world, and the man he became was a man of vision. For me the book

was a great reminder that like everyone else's, every immigrant's life is unique in its way, and that "Mexico" and "Mexican-American" can mean many different things. It was also a chance for me to make up for my lifelong, woeful, Anglo-American ignorance of the richness of Mexican history, life, and culture and how changeable the US has been over the decades in how little or much it cared to look out from the Mexican people who've been part of our western state economies since long before there WERE western states! This book is also the beautiful portrait of a young, smart, determined mother, her two devoted brothers and how they basically all died in the course of giving a young boy, Ernesto, a more promising lease on life. This is a great book for older children and any adult who wants to understand the Mexican-American connection.Ã Â Nutty to Meet You! Dr. Peanut Book #1Take Me With You When You Go

As a child of Mexican immigrants, Galarza's detailed voyage gives a glimpse as to how life was for my parents. My father also coming from a small village in Nayarit (Jasmines de Quyultita), Galarza's description of his town sounds dead on. (Jasmines was also this way). In all, Galarza tells a wonderful story in which the reader is bound to see himself in those places.

Mui mal! I tied, but just booooooorrrring after a bit. I would never recommend buying this book to a friend. Some good part, but get it for free at the library.

This is the story of my grandmother Henrietta's brother--extremely vivid in detail and an easy read. Enraptures and inspires you in ways I couldn't begin to iterate! I'm sorry I never got to meet this extraordinary man.

This book is simply an auto biography of the writers life. This book is extremely slow paced with little to no important plot points to find. While reading this book for a school project I had trouble finding what to write about because of the lack of important events. However this book does have a unique writing style that does to an extent keep the readers interested.

Thanks for the affordable book. The condition is used but it looks like brand new. I will highly recommend this seller.Thank you so much for selling this cheap and quality book, it could help us/average income family that needs book for our children.

"Barrio Boy" is an important historical document, as it presents through various aspects of local

color the Mexican community as it appeared in the early twentieth century. It is also important as a chronicle of the Diaz dictatorship and of the forces that made a family, against bitter odds, migrate to southwestern California.

I liked reading BARRIO BOY 32 years ago, but having forgotten it completely, I recently re-read it and enjoyed it as much the second time. It's a humorous story of a kid growing up in a remote Mexican mountain village, moving to town, then to a city, while Mexico thrashed in the throes of the great revolution that lasted for ten bloody years. Eventually the eight year old Ernesto arrives at the American border, then goes to live with his mother and uncle in the working class section of Sacramento, California. The story leaves off as he is about to enter high school, so the recollections are of early childhood and boyhood only. The detail of everything is fantastic. Galarza must have had an amazing memory, or else he filled in the gaps by talking with his older relatives. The story moves along, never getting boring. More than anything else, this book gives you the feel of life in the Mexico of those times from the point of view of one who lived it, not just observed it. As it is the point of view of a kid, naturally there is little introspection or thinking about deeper meanings, overall trends, or the wider picture. You don't ever find out what happened to him, but if you look into it, you'll find that he was one of the first Chicanos to graduate from Stanford and got a Ph.D from Columbia too, becoming active in the labor movement. This guy was a bright spark all right. Bright colors as in a child's life, animals, sounds, special effects, unusual neighbors----these are marvelously portrayed, as are his observations of the differences between Mexicans and `gringos', not to mention other nationalities he met in California. His uncles, his mother, his feelings about his absent father---these hardly surface at all. His mother re-married, but you don't learn how the author felt in the one sentence he devoted to this event. He had three more siblings, but we learn little about them. His mother and older uncle Gustavo died in the flu epidemic after World War I, but he expresses little sense of loss. In short, you get the action and events, but none of his feeling. He is seldom critical. As the portrayal of a Mexican-Anerican life, or the life of any immigrant who came to the US in the early 20th century, this book cannot be outclassed. It's valuable for its memories, and for its good writing style. I recommend it highly.

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