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Infinite City: A San Francisco Atlas

Rebecca Solnit

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Rebecca Solnit : Infinite City: A San Francisco Atlas before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Infinite City: A San Francisco Atlas:

76 of 78 people found the following review helpful. "San Francisco contains many more than eight hundred thousand living maps"By Michael R. MooreThe beautiful "Infinite City" belongs on any list of essential San Francisco books. Rebecca Solnit and her collaborators have taken a core sample of the endless layers of San Francisco history and laid it out in twenty-two brilliantly imagined maps and eighteen essays exploring the city's history, geography, demography, biology, and myth. "Infinite City" is vast enough to encompass the Coliseum, Coronet and Alexandria theaters; the Pipevine swallowtail, Satyr anglewing, and Orange sulfur butterflies; the Yelamu, Aramai, and Urebure peoples; the "McKittrick Hotel", "Argosy Book Shop", and Ernie's; Josephine McCrackin, Carrie Stevens Walter, and Barbara Eastman; Bechtel, RoboteX, and Jeppesen; Jimbo's Bop City, Ann's 440, and the Six Gallery; Acme Export Packing, the Pacific Far East Line, and Triple A Machine Shop; and the Richmond Branch of the San Francisco Public Library. The book itself is as lovingly designed as anything McSweeney's has published, proof that until we stop needing tactile pleasures, the screen will never replace the page.7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic Book!!By M. Von JaegerI bought it for a friend who grew up in San Francisco and who loves exploring different books media about S.F. He fell in Love with it I will be buying another copy for myself since it is a fascinating variety of perspectives and colorful maps with interesting information.. I Love It!!3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. I love this book!By C. PierceI was born and raised in the Oakland/ San Francisco Bay Area, living elsewhere in the country right now but this book brought my home right back to me. The atlas reminded me of childhood things like the canneries my mother worked in and the cast iron penny bank my father brought me from an excavating job he was on in the 1950s. I later discovered that bank was buried in the rubble of a building at the time of the great earthquake. If you know the bay you know it's sights, sounds and the blood that runs through it, if you're born there it's always with you and sometimes if you only lived there for a little while. It's history is filled with seekers, adventurers, dreamers and villains. Great calm and great calamity. Most of all it made me think of a place as an atlas. Any place is more than it's present appearance, this was an adventure in thinking differently and was written so beautifully it could only have been done by someone who knows the city's heart and soul, warts and all. I will definitely read this over and over.

What makes a place? Infinite City, Rebecca Solnit's brilliant reinvention of the traditional atlas, searches out the answer by examining the many layers of meaning in one place, the San Francisco Bay Area. Aided by artists, writers, cartographers, and twenty-two gorgeous color maps, each of which illuminates the city and its surroundings as experienced by different inhabitants, Solnit takes us on a tour that will forever change the way we think about place. She explores the area thematicallyconnecting, for example, Eadweard Muybridge's foundation of motion-picture technology with Alfred Hitchcock's filming of Vertigo. Across an urban grid of just seven by seven miles, she finds seemingly unlimited landmarks and treasuresbutterfly habitats, queer sites, murders, World War II shipyards, blues clubs, Zen Buddhist centers. She roams the political terrain, both progressive and conservative, and details the cultural geographies of the Mission District, the culture wars of the Fillmore, the South of Market world being devoured by redevelopment, and much, much more. Breathtakingly original, this atlas of the imagination invites us to search out the layers of San Francisco that carry meaning for us to discover our own infinite city, be it Cleveland, Toulouse, or Shanghai.CONTRIBUTORS:Cartographers: Ben Pease and Shizue SeigelDesigner: Lia TjandraArtists: Sandow Birk, Mona Caron, Jaime Cortez, Hugh D'Andrade, Robert Dawson, Paz de la Calzada, Jim Herrington, Ira Nowinski, Alison Pebworth, Michael Rauner, Gent Sturgeon, Sunaura TaylorWriters and researchers: Summer Brenner, Adriana Camarena, Chris Carlsson, Lisa Conrad, Guillermo Gmez-Pea, Joshua Jelly-Schapiro, Paul La Farge, Genine Lentine, Stella Lochman, Aaron Shurin, Heather Smith, Richard WalkerAdditional cartography: Darin Jensen; Robin Grossinger and Ruth Askevold, San Francisco Estuary Institute

A joyous book.