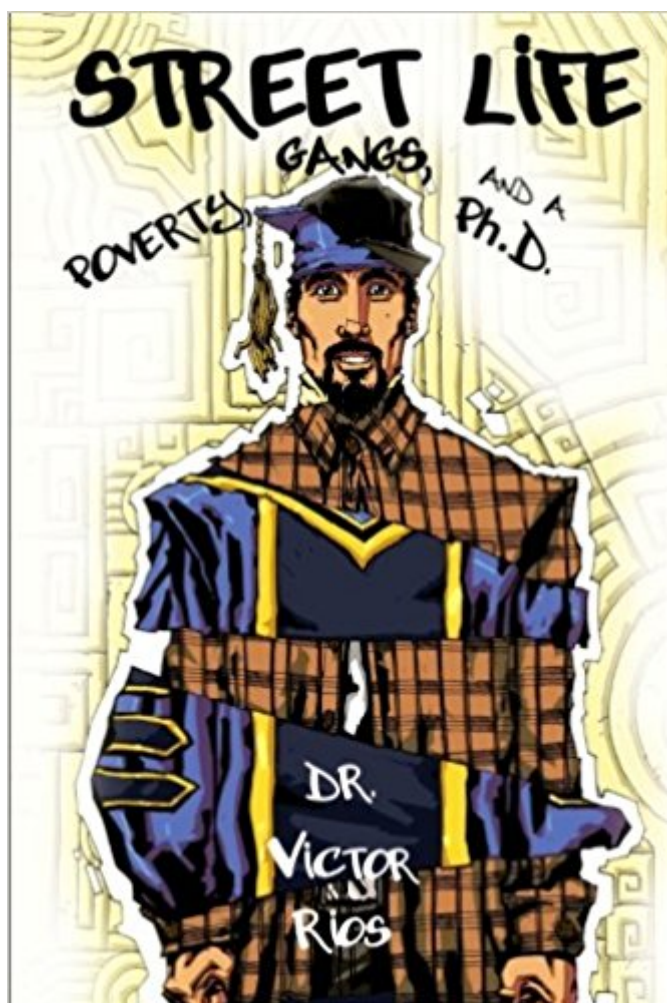


The book was found

# Street Life: Poverty, Gangs, And A Ph.D.



## Synopsis

Victor Rios grew up in Oakland, California in a single parent household, in poverty and on welfare. He joined a gang at the age of thirteen and by age sixteen he had dropped out of school and had been incarcerated several times. Having witnessed the tragic murder of his best friend by gang rivals, Victor hit a critical juncture in life at which point he made the decision to transform. With the support of educators and mentors, Victor redirected his attitude towards life, and returned to school to eventually acquire a Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley. Dr. Rios uses his personal story, and 10 years of research experience, to discuss how personal and institutional "illusions" contribute to academic failure. He speaks about how society gives young people little choice but to use their "attitude" to solve their problems and how this strategy often leads to detrimental consequences. He discusses practical pathways to transformation relevant to the lives of students. Dr. Rios speaks about his own personal transformation by taking advantage of the support that teachers and programs provided him and discusses how these efforts can be replicated. This book is written to speak to a young adult audience—those young people who live on the margins, who are often assigned texts that do not represent their lived reality, their struggles, or their experiences. Educators and youth workers can use each of the short chapters in this book as tools for discussing complicated social issues like abuse, youth violence, delinquency, fatalism, opportunity, stratification, poverty, resilience, college, positive role models, healthy choices, and personal transformation.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Dr. Victor Rios lives in Southern California with his wife and 3 kids. He is a professor of Sociology at the University of California, Santa Barbara where he teaches classes on Juvenile Justice, Youth Culture, and a 550 student class: Introduction to Sociology. He is also author of Punished: Policing the Lives of Black and Latino Boys.

The story is okay, especially for kids with similar backgrounds, but what's up with all the spelling, punctuation, grammar and assorted editing mistakes? Where was the editor at the publishing house on this one? What a mess!!!

As a person whom shares similar experiences with Dr. Rios, this book is fantastic. "Street Life" is his autobiography and he tells his story explicitly. His uncompromising style of writing allows readers to quickly engage and jump into the book. As a Mexican-American, Rios, depicts what its like to grow up in an urban gang-infested setting and without the guidance of a father. His journey from a troubled teen to a established professor with a P.H.D. is inspiring and motivating to say the least. Readers can easily capture his authenticity that is what makes this book so enjoyable.

This book was most inspirational. As a long time educator, the author's story serves to confirm my belief in the power of education in changing the cycle of violence, and poverty and replacing it with hope, dreams, and possibilities .

I loved this book so much I read it in one day while at work!! definitely inspiring to continue to push towards my dreams, single chicana mother. Can relate on so many levels was just what I need to hear/read!

The story is very easy to read which I believe is a good thing because you're never too young to get inspired. Dr. Rios story is amazing and very moving I would recommend this book to any child usually teens who feels they're not capable of succeeding or even adults who feel the same.

Dr. Rios states this book is written for a certain demographic, while that's not me I still really liked this book. I plan on sharing it!

Inspiring book and so realistic!Made me think of my life now.

Very simply written for easy reading. Insightful reflection on what it takes to get from an extremely difficult childhood to an extremely successful adulthood.

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