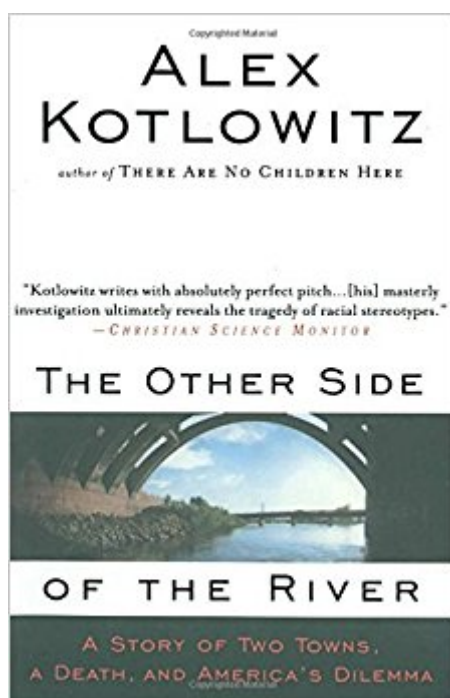


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# The Other Side Of The River: A Story Of Two Towns, A Death, And America's Dilemma



## Synopsis

Bestselling author Alex Kotlowitz is one of this country's foremost writers on the ever explosive issue of race. In this gripping and ultimately profound book, Kotlowitz takes us to two towns in southern Michigan, St. Joseph and Benton Harbor, separated by the St. Joseph River. Geographically close, but worlds apart, they are a living metaphor for America's racial divisions: St. Joseph is a prosperous lakeshore community and ninety-five percent white, while Benton Harbor is impoverished and ninety-two percent black. When the body of a black teenaged boy from Benton Harbor is found in the river, unhealed wounds and suspicions between the two towns' populations surface as well. The investigation into the young man's death becomes, inevitably, a screen on which each town projects their resentments and fears. *The Other Side of the River* sensitively portrays the lives and hopes of the towns' citizens as they wrestle with this mystery--and reveals the attitudes and misperceptions that undermine race relations throughout America.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The author of *There Are No Children Here* follows up that magnificent effort with the gripping story of a mysterious death in southwest Michigan. A black teenager surfaces in the St. Joseph River, drowned. How did he get there? The towns of Benton Harbor and St. Joseph, divided by both race and the river, grapple with the possibilities in this maddeningly difficult case. Alex Kotlowitz puts his sharp reporting skills to good work here, describing in detail everything that is known about Eric McGinnis's short life and untimely death. But the book is best at plumbing the racial psychology of

these mutually suspicious communities. The Other Side of the River has that can't-put-it-down quality found in the best narrative nonfiction, and it speaks to issues affecting all of America. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 10 Up-The true story of two cities in Southern Michigan (one white, the other black) separated by a river. When the body of a youth from the black town is found floating in the river, the uproar that surrounds his mysterious death exposes the gaping racial divide that haunts our nation. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Alex Kotlowitz' book shines a light on race relations in America by focusing on an incident that happened to a young man found floating in a river between two towns, one predominantly white and one predominantly black. The mystery of what happened to Eric is never resolved, but the different ways in which each town interprets his death illustrate the different experience the two races have in America. Thought provoking and smart, this book can be frustrating to read, but is still worthwhile.

Great book with a really good story. If you live in Southwest Michigan this book will hit home for you.

Very good read, insightful and contemplative. Since I have family in the Benton Harbor area, I thought the book really put things in perspective, and unfortunately- I can still reflect on the book when I attend events in that area. The (dirty) politics of the area promote racism even in 2013.

Interesting because we live about an hour from these two towns. I haven't spent much time in either, but we read this book as a book club group. It didn't make for a lot of discussion because it was a presentation of facts that could not be disputed, from the interviews of a journalist, but enlightening nevertheless, as to what may go into race problems and relations.

I live on "the other side" of the river and love the place and the book. Well written and brings up a lot of good points about people and the way we all look at our neighbors.

Excellent!!!

Dated, but interesting

One of the best books I've ever read on race relations in America!

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