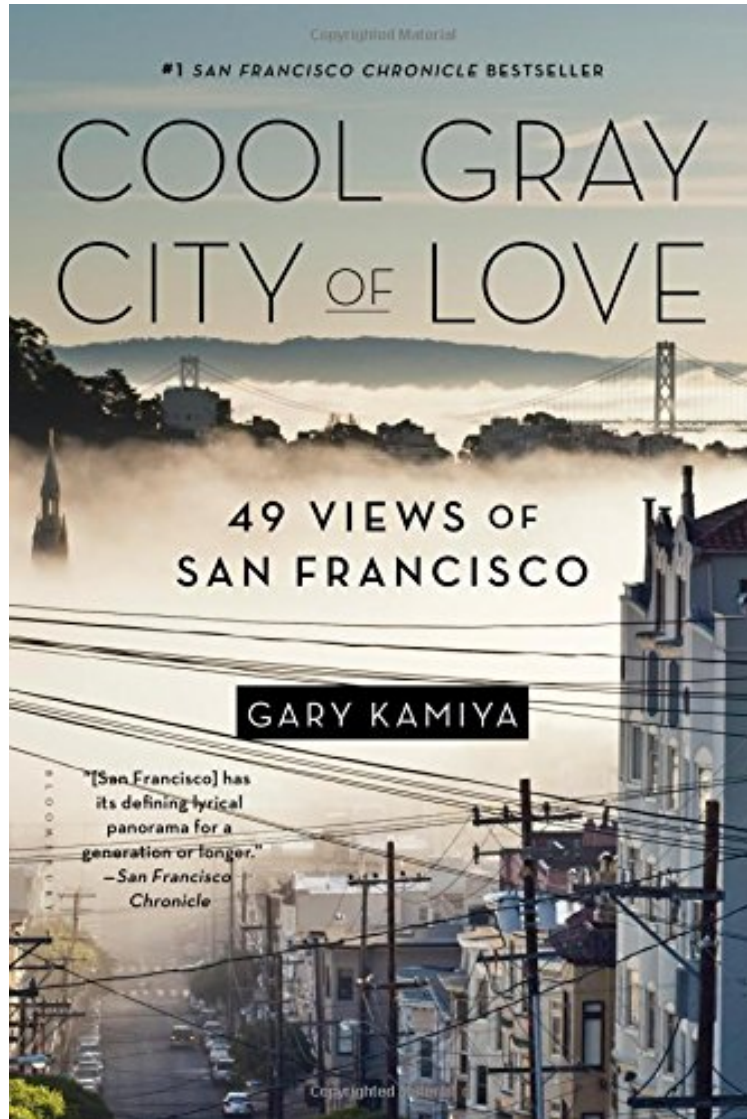


(Library ebook) Cool Gray City of Love: 49 Views of San Francisco

Cool Gray City of Love: 49 Views of San Francisco

Gary Kamiya

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#38131 in Books St Martins Pr 2014-10-14 2014-10-14Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 207.52 x 26.92 x 5.471, 1.00 #File Name: 1620401266400 pagesSt Martins Pr | File size: 23.Mb

Gary Kamiya : Cool Gray City of Love: 49 Views of San Francisco before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cool Gray City of Love: 49 Views of San Francisco:

47 of 48 people found the following review helpful. A Beautiful Love Letter to San FranciscoBy Bret WatersI've been lucky enough to have traveled to many great cities in the world. But I keep returning here, to what the poet George Sterling called "The Cool Gray City of Love". Despite the notoriously crappy weather, ridiculous cost of living, and misfits living on street corners, San Francisco has a certain sense of place that is unmatched in all the world. Or should

I say "sense of places" because San Francisco, perhaps more so than any other city, isn't one place. It's a ragtag collection of neighborhoods, each with its own unique identity, culture, and history. It's a collection of independent villages, united by the proud belief that "normal" doesn't apply here. As the late great columnist Herb Caen wrote "San Francisco is surrounded on three sides by water, and on the fourth by a foreign country." Gary Kamiya's new book is, without a doubt, the best writing about San Francisco I've read since the passing of Herb Caen. The book is a rambling walking tour, a history lesson, a geological exploration. More than anything else, it's a love letter. Or, more accurately, it's 49 love letters, because Kamiya has structured the book as 49 vignettes, each about a particular spot in the City. He takes us from the place where Europeans first camped in 1776 (Mountain Lake, in today's Richmond District) to a small patch of grass on Telegraph Hill where you can still sit today, watching ships sail through the Gate as one could during the gold rush of 1849. With meticulously-researched history and an easy story-telling style, Kamiya writes of how an Englishman named William Richardson jumped off a ship in 1822, befriended the Spanish comandante at the Presidio and fell in love with his 19-year-old daughter as they danced around the campfire that night. Richardson and Maria Antonia Martinez got married, built the first home in Yerba Buena Cove, and raised three kids as a town grew around them. Kamiya writes "It cannot be a coincidence that one of the world's great cosmopolitan party towns was founded by a runaway who had just met a mixed-race hottie at an all-nighter". If you love San Francisco as much as I do, with its twisted history and crooked streets, you will love this beautifully-written book. Highly recommended. 15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. History in succulent bites... By Heather E. Hagerman This is a pastiche of people and places, a primer on many aspects of San Francisco. Having grown up nearby I can say that about half of this book is simply common knowledge to literate locals. We have been to the places, seen the view, and know the story. The other half of the material is a revelation, like finding an Indian burial mound in grandma's basement, and suddenly understanding why there is a peculiar slope to her back yard. I found myself on many familiar paths but when the twists came they were illuminating. The other thing that kept me reading was Kamiya's language. He writes with a direct, insightful, and witty style that befits a San Francisco newsman. His sentences are a pleasure to read. One other important thing, I can honestly say this book was the first I have read on a tablet where the experience was better than on paper. I found myself constantly toggling between my reader app and google maps. With google maps I could actually teleport myself to the very spot where each of the 49 essays is embarked. Wow! How technology dazzles. 13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. A Walk In The Footsteps Of History . . . By joe As a San Francisco resident in the mid 80's, I spent hours upon hours of my free time foot walking around every inch of the city, the far reaches of Lands End, The Presidio, Golden Gate Park, The Finance District, The Tenderloin, China Town and South Of Market, etc. Trying to discover and absorb the multitude of different facets of this wonderful place called San Francisco. With COOL GRAY CITY OF LOVE it's almost like going back over every step I walked but this time I get to discover the history of every square of ground, every path I've discovered on my own. It's an exciting revelation to know all that came before and to remember it as I once did before when I knew nothing but a vague idea of it's origin. Thank you Gary for awakening and showing me the spirit of history of this city, the aura of which I sensed when I lived there oh so long ago, my footsteps now a map that I walk in memory, remembering every experience from the COOL GRAY CITY OF LOVE called San Francisco.

A runaway San Francisco Chronicle bestseller, *Cool Gray City of Love* is a one-of-a-kind book for a one-of-a-kind city. It's a love song in 49 chapters to an extraordinary place, taking 49 different sites around the city as points of entry and inspiration—from a seedy intersection in the Tenderloin to the soaring sea cliffs at Lands End. Encompassing the city's Spanish missionary past, a gold rush, a couple of earthquakes, the Beats, the hippies, and the dot-com boom, this book is at once a rambling walking tour, a natural and human history, and a celebration of place itself—a guide to loving any place more faithfully and fully.

"How do I love thee? In *Cool Gray City of Love* Gary Kamiya crushes on San Francisco in 49 different ways—from its landscapes and architecture to a fabled past encompassing the Gold Rush, Beats and hippies, the AIDS crisis, and dot.com mania. Now that's love and devotion." —Vanity Fair
"Written in a confessional first-person tone that invokes a conversation between two old friends: Kamiya and the city he has called home for over 40 years . . . impressive is the author's uncanny grasp of the bay's natural history and the way that the landscape continues to shape the lives of current San Franciscans . . . Kamiya has written a fitting ode to an exceptional city." —Publishers Weekly
"Kamiya's relish is contagious . . . [San Francisco] has its defining lyrical panorama for a generation or longer." —San Francisco Chronicle
"Newcomers to San Francisco fall in love with the city every day, but no one can appreciate it quite like a longtime resident. Kamiya proves an ardent, expert guide to his hometown's history, neighborhoods and landmarks . . . *Cool Gray City of Love* will open your eyes anew." —San Jose Mercury News
"I can't imagine there's anyone who knows San Francisco better than Gary Kamiya." —Dave Eggers
About the Author Gary Kamiya was born in Oakland in 1953, grew up in Berkeley, and has lived in San Francisco since 1971. He cofounded Salon.com, where he was executive editor for twelve years and then a columnist. His first book, *Shadow Knights: The Secret War Against Hitler*, was a critically-acclaimed history of Britain's top secret Special Operations Executive. Kamiya is currently

executive editor of San Francisco Magazine.