



The Slave Next Door: Human Trafficking and Slavery in America Today

By Kevin Bales, Ron Soodalter

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In this riveting book, authors and authorities on modern day slavery Kevin Bales and Ron Soodalter expose the disturbing phenomenon of human trafficking and slavery that exists now in the United States. In *The Slave Next Door* we find that slaves are all around us, hidden in plain sight: the dishwasher in the kitchen of the neighborhood restaurant, the kids on the corner selling cheap trinkets, the man sweeping the floor of the local department store. In these pages we also meet some unexpected slaveholders, such as a 27-year old middle-class Texas housewife who is currently serving a life sentence for offences including slavery. Weaving together a wealth of voices—from slaves, slaveholders, and traffickers as well as from experts, counselors, law enforcement officers, rescue and support groups, and others—this book is also a call to action, telling what we, as private citizens, can do to finally bring an end to this horrific crime.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Although most people imagine widespread enslavement only in the historical past, human trafficking continues to exist today in myriad forms around the world. In this informative call to action, Bales (*Disposable People*), sociologist and president of Free the Slaves, and Soodalter (*Hanging Captain Gordon*), a historian, document routine coercive slave labor in domestic service, prostitution, farm labor, factories, light industry, prisons and mining operations. While many sensational cases have been well publicized, the authors demonstrate that slavery exists in mundane and unexpected forms. Their case studies begin in an American suburb and traverse the globe to urban China and rural Ghana, returning to Los Angeles, Calif., and East Orange, N.J., just a few of 100-plus documented cases in the U.S. The second half of the book focuses on causes and solutions, with a helpful emphasis on how ordinary individuals can recognize and report coercive situations, creating a humane and helpful primer on how to sever the links that create and hide human bondage. (*July*)

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Review

“An informative call to action . . . a humane and helpful primer on how to sever the links that create and hide human bondage.”

(*Publishers Weekly* 2009-05-04)

“Will likely change the way you understand your community.”

(Deborah Fink *Friends Journal* 2010-05-07)

“Anyone wanting a better understanding of the ongoing problem of slavery in the United States—and their own role in perpetuating or eradicating it—should read this book.”

(Charles Song *California Lawyer* 2010-01-01)

"Essential reading for anyone interested in human rights. . . . [The authors] appeal to the reader's sense of justice and compassion."

(Tiffany Williams *Foreign Policy In Focus* 2009-05-18)

"If you read one book on human trafficking this year, make it *The Slave Next Door*. . . . Digestible, enjoyable, and ultimately uplifting."

(*Change.org* 2009-05-14)

"With the help of this great book . . . we can shift from ignoring this crude reality to [eradicating] this abominable practice."

(*African Politics Portal* 2009-05-13)

“An arresting volume.”

(*History Wire* 2009-07-14)

From the Inside Flap

"Once again, Kevin Bales and Ron Soodalter make us confront a tragic reality—there are as many as 27 million people trapped in modern slavery worldwide. In this book, we hear the voices of survivors and those who are fighting every day for freedom."—Congressman John Conyers, Jr., Chair of the House Judiciary Committee

"Most Americans believe that slavery in our country ended with the Emancipation Proclamation. They are wrong. As Kevin Bales and Ron Soodalter document in this excellent volume, human bondage is a reality for thousands of children, women and men living in the United States. *The Slave Next Door* exposes slavery in today's America in all its forms, and sounds a call to arms to government, corporations, and private citizens alike."—Kerry Kennedy, Founder, Robert F. Kennedy Center for Human Rights

"This is a book to make you angry. From Florida field workers who pick some of the fruits and vegetables we eat to prisoners in China who make desk lamps we can buy at Wal-Mart, Bales and Soodalter show us the manifold ways that unfree labor is woven into the American economy. And, most important, they show us what we can do to stop it."—Adam Hochschild, author of *Bury the Chains* and *King Leopold's Ghost*

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Keiko Whitchurch:

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Delbert Lambert:

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Clark Abeyta:

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