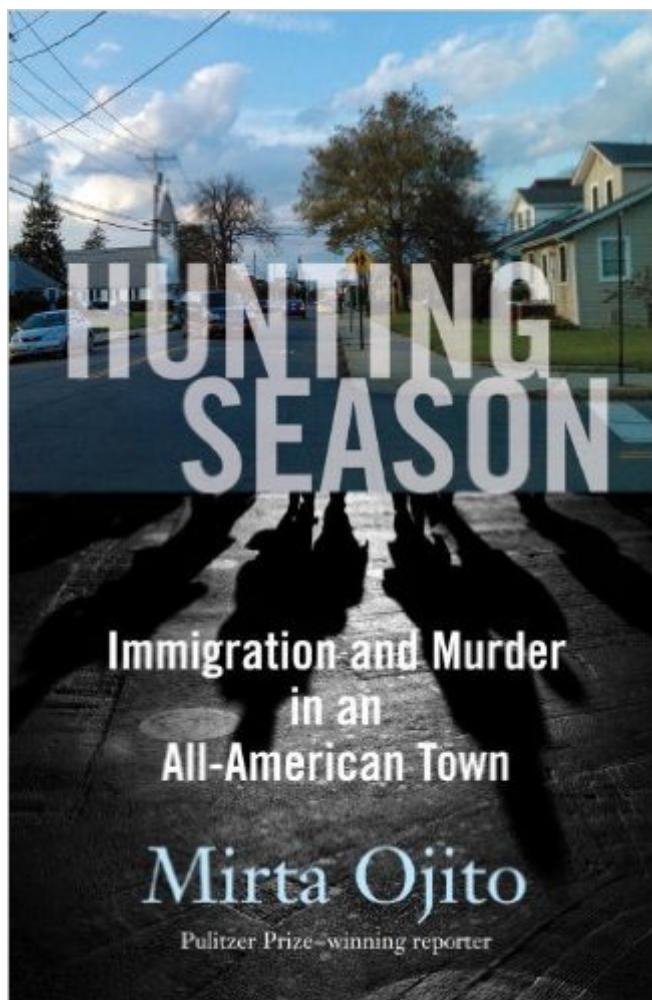


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Hunting Season: Immigration And Murder In An All-American Town



Synopsis

2014 International Latino Awards FinalistThe true story of an immigrant's murder that turned a quaint village on the Long Island shore into ground zero in the war on immigration. In November 2008, Marcelo Lucero, a thirty-seven-year-old undocumented Ecuadorean immigrant, was attacked and murdered by a group of teenagers as he walked the streets of the Long Island village of Patchogue accompanied by a childhood friend. The attackers were out hunting for beaners. Chasing, harassing, and assaulting defenseless beaners "their slur for Latinos" was part of their weekly entertainment, some of the teenagers later confessed. Latinos "primarily men and not all of them immigrants" have become the target of hate crimes in recent years as the nation wrestles with swelling numbers of undocumented immigrants, the suburbs become the newcomers' first destination, and public figures advance their careers by spewing anti-immigration rhetoric. Lucero, an unassuming worker at a dry cleaner's, became yet another victim of anti-immigration fever. In the wake of his death, Patchogue was catapulted into the national limelight as this formerly unremarkable suburb of New York became ground zero in the war on immigration. In death, Lucero became a symbol of everything that was wrong with our broken immigration system: fewer opportunities to obtain visas to travel to the United States, porous borders, a growing dependency on cheap labor, and the rise of bigotry. Drawing on firsthand interviews and on-the-ground reporting, journalist Mirta Ojito has crafted an unflinching portrait of one community struggling to reconcile the hate and fear underlying the idyllic veneer of their all-American town. With a strong commitment to telling all sides of the story, Ojito unravels the engrossing narrative with objectivity and insight, providing an invaluable look at one of America's most pressing issues. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

At the heart of Hunting Season: Immigration and Murder in an All-American Town is the question regarding the sanctity of life. Is an illegal immigrant's life worth less than naturalized American's? Mercelo Lucero was an undocumented worker living in Patchogue in Long Island, New York when local teens went 'beaner-hopping'. This refers to an organized assault of Hispanic men simply because of their ethnicity. For bored locals in January of 2009, his life meant absolutely nothing. There are several layers to Hunting Season. One of the most interesting is the relationship between a small village in Ecuador and Long Island, New York. For years, many thousands of Ecuadorans from this hard-working region have made it to Long Island and worked jobs most Americans don't want. They wash dishes, work construction, etc. Most of these people plan to go back to Ecuador after saving up some money. As a percentage, more Ecuadorans live abroad than any other country in South America. The tension between the Hispanic population is well-described by award-winning author Mirta Ojito. Another layer to Hunting Season is xenophobia in Long Island in the years preceding Lucero's death. The author condemns one vocally anti-immigrant councilman for creating a climate of hate which may have indirectly contributed to Lucero's death. Pundits like CNN's Lou Dobbs also get some coverage in the book. One flaw in the narrative is that Jeffrey Conroy, the 17-year old killer, gets off easily. The author spends so much time on the sociological explanation for the killing that she fails to expose his personal responsibility.

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