

(Read now) Walls: Travels Along the Barricades


## Walls: Travels Along the Barricades


*Marcello Di Cintio*

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TRAVELS ALONG THE BARRICADES  
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**Marcello Di Cintio : Walls: Travels Along the Barricades** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Walls: Travels Along the Barricades:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Finding common ground between our dividesBy D. Ursillo Jr.A compelling, personal, historical-journalistic tale that ushers you alongside the author to meet, speak with and experience the lives of those living in the shadow of some of the worlds most notorious divides. It's a very appropriate book to be reading in our modern political age. With touches of humor, poetic insights and grace, Di Cintio wants you to feel what it's like to meet walls that are meant to keep people apart - through the voices and stories of some who live

beside them. What do they share in common? What are their differences? And why do we keep building walls, at all? This book fascinated, inspired, and humbled me. I am better for reading it, and suggest you do too. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A very engaging read on a very troubling subject. By Mick Another look at walls, but not just the usual suspects. There is some fantastic storytelling in these accounts, whether they be the dramas of wall-climbers or the testimonies of people whose lives are divided by political barriers. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. It saddened me to learn about so much pain. By O C Perin This book made me aware of walls I did not know about and made me feel in part, as a human being, responsible to let them stay. Let us bring them down!

What does it mean to live against a wall? In this ambitious first person narrative, Marcello Di Cintio travels to the worlds most disputed edges to meet the people who live alongside the razor wire, concrete, and steel and how the structure of the walls has influenced their lives. Di Cintio shares tea with Saharan refugees on the wrong side of Moroccos desert wall. He meets with illegal Punjabi migrants who have circumvented the fencing around the Spanish enclave of Ceuta. He visits fenced-in villages in northeast India, walks Arizonas migrant trails, and travels to Palestinian villages to witness the protests against Israels security barrier. From Native American reservations on the U.S.-Mexico border and the Great Wall of Montreal to Cypruss divided capital and the Peace Lines of Belfast, Di Cintio seeks to understand what these structures say about those who build them and how they influence the cultures that they pen in. He learns that while every wall fails to accomplish what it was erected to achieve the walls are never solutions each wall succeeds at something else. Some walls define Us from Them with Medieval clarity. Some walls encourage fear or feed hate. Some walls steal. Others kill. And every wall inspires its own subversion, either by the infiltrators who dare to go over, under, or around them, or by the artists who transform them.

From Booklist Even as technology and globalization promise the destruction of barriers internationally, nations, regions, cities, and nationalities continue to erect walls and barriers to separate themselves from others of all types. Di Cintio offers a tour of walls and barriers of stone, steel, brick, and other materials in this first-person exploration of walls as impressions of power and will, isolation and protection. From the Middle East to the Americas, Di Cintio ponders why societies build walls and the impact on populations on both sides of them. He offers character sketches of individuals and nations Palestinian villagers protesting Israels security barrier, Mexicans diligently penetrating the U.S. border in Arizona, illegal immigrants circumventing the barriers to the Spanish enclave of Ceuta in North Africa. Those who would penetrate a barrier risk life and limb for a chance at advancement, while the protectors often go medieval to keep them out. Di Cintio offers historic perspective from the Great Wall of China to the Roman emperor Hadrians wall across what became Britain and from the Maginot Line to the Berlin Wall. An engaging look at the meaning of walls. --Vanessa Bush A travelogue that takes the Canadian writer along the frontiers, barricades, and peace lines that give lie to claims of a more-connected globe Di Cintio is eloquent about the psychology of barriers. Wall Street Journal "Di Cintio (Poets and Pahlevans: A Journey into the Heart of Iran, 2006, etc.) leads a whirlwind tour of the world, looking at the unlikely places where the human mania for erecting barriers has shown itself Solid journalism that takes readers into cheerless, contested places they probably would not wish to see for themselves. An eye-opener." Kirkus [An] intriguing journey around the worlds walls Di Cintio uses his explorations as way of thinking about unresolved conflicts. He is at his best when he makes the trip into an adventure, running the Sahara marathon, collecting smugglers stories worthy of the Polish master-traveller Ryszard Kapuscinski. The London Times He writes well, unpicking some of the worlds trouble spots in spare and lucid prose Di Cintio has a sympathetic ear and an eye on the long, slow melancholy of divided spaces. Literary ..illuminating, brilliantly composed Di Cintios book is a travel book that takes its readers through many countries and gives them a sense of what it is like to live on one side of a wall and to experience the fragmentation and destruction of the landscape of ones country. He writes with passion and empathy for the victims of those monstrous walls that take no account of how they affect the human beings living next to them. The Financial Times His wide-ranging narrative mixes geopolitical background with first-hand accounts of dispiriting individual experiences in squalid refugee camps Di Cintios journeys successfully articulate the diminishing, humiliating effect of the walls on those who have no choice but to push against them. Sunday Telegraph [I dont feel] ... Di Cintio justifies his upbeat claim, at the end, that the urge to tear down barriers is a stronger impulse than the urge to build them. But what he does do, bravely and forcefully, and with impressive commitment, is to bear witness to the pain and suffering of people who live in the shadow of separation barriers. The Guardian Whats it like having a physically massive, politically symbolic barrier for a neighbor? Thats the question posted by this deftly written travelogue, which drops into settlements in Israel, Northern Ireland, Mexico and more to paint stark portraits of life beside some of the worlds most notorious reinforced borders. Time Out UK An ambitious investigation of the globalized worlds underbelly. Metro UK Di Cintio immerses himself in his chosen locations, providing historical background and rich reportage of the many social and political realities of being walled in (or out). What emerges is a collection of interrelated vignettes full of dense description and fascinating characters that give the reader a true sense of place it is a deeply humane, honest, and even cautious account of an outsider who seeks as much as possible to understand local contexts. Quill and Quire (starred review) Marcello Di Cintio is one of the best travel writers of his

generation. In *Walls*, he tells compelling and engrossing stories with his customary mix of vivid detail, a strong sense of history, a lovely sense of humor and, above all, a fascination with the human race in all its contradictions. Margaret MacMillan, bestselling author of *Dangerous Games*, *Nixon and Mao*, and *Paris 1919* and Warden of St Antony's College, Oxford University "I've never bought the divisive notion that good fences make for good neighbors. But one thing's for sure: Walls make for great stories something Marcello di Cintio richly demonstrates in this energetically researched and beautifully recounted work of reportage." Taras Grescoe, author of *Straphanger* and *Bottomfeeder* "Di Cintio explores eight political hot spots zones where walls split terrain, people and minds. With admirable legwork and vivid prose, he discovers that these walls and the communities living along both sides of them are sights of fear, illness and suspicion, but also sights of solidarity, storytelling and intense creativity. This journey is his method of engagement, and in reading it he implicates us in the tensions and suppressed ambitions of these divided societies. Moez Surani, author of *Floating Life* As Robert Frosts front-porch adage has it, Good fences make good neighbors. Well, not only would Di Cintio disagree, but he also has an honest, compassionate, and expertly written counter-argument. *Walls* is the kind of non-fiction you might call eye-opening, since it features Di Cintio travelling to all kinds of barricades around the world and interviewing the disparate people who live in their shadows. But he actually engages many more parts of the body than that the brain and the heart both come to mind. *Edmonton Journal*, 5 Favorites of 2012[A] tour de force of reportage Di Cintio writes vividly, conscientiously, compassionately, and, in his concluding paragraphs, optimistically in spite of all he has witnessed - for he has also witnessed moments of beauty, courage, and art. His readers are the beneficiaries. *Alberta Views* [Di Cintio] observes and reports tirelessly, then makes powerful and poetic connections between all that he has seen and heard. *Walls* is a moving and extremely engaging book, a reminder of the constant thrum of hope amid so many man-made obstacles. *Canadian Geographic* Marcello Di Cintio's new book is exactly the kind of non-fiction I adore most. Its ambitious, intensely personal, and uses one basic idea as the jump-off point for tackling all kinds of fascinating issues along the periphery. *The Edmonton Journal*