

Child of the Dark: The Diary Of Carolina Maria De Jesus

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The powerful firsthand account of life in the streets of São Paulo that drew international attention to the plight of the poor.

Includes eight pages of photographs and an afterword by Robert M. Levine

Translated from the Portuguese by David S. Clair

Carolina Maria de Jesus, a Brazilian woman with only two years of schooling, was the mother of three illegitimate children, each born of a different father. This story of her life in São Paulo stands as a vivid, incendiary social document. With stark simplicity, Carolina describes her squalid neighborhood, the favela, and tells how she lived hand to mouth. To keep herself and her children barely alive, to stave off their ever-present hunger, Carolina must scavenge for scraps of metal and paper in the gutter to sell. Her story is a witness to the vicious fights, the knifings, and the sordid sex of the favelados-prisoners of poverty, prey of the unscrupulous, and the breeders of revolution.

Robert M. Levine devoted his career to Brazilian social history. He chaired the National Committee on Brazilian Studies and the Columbia University Seminar on Brazil and was director of the Center for Latin American Studies, University of Miami. His major books include *Vale of Tears and Father of the Poor? Vargas and His Era*. Text: English (translation)

Original Language: Portuguese

Other Books

The Brazil Reader, From the first encounters between the Portuguese and indigenous peoples in 1500 to the current political turmoil, the history of Brazil is much more complex and dynamic than the usual representations of it as the home of Carnival, soccer, the Amazon, and samba would suggest. This extensively revised and expanded second edition of the best-selling *Brazil Reader* dives deep into the past and present of a country marked by its geographical vastness and cultural, ethnic, and environmental diversity. Containing over one hundred selections—many of which appear in English for the first time and which range from sermons by Jesuit missionaries and poetry to political speeches and biographical portraits of famous public figures, intellectuals, and artists—this collection presents the lived experience of Brazilians from all social and economic classes, racial backgrounds, genders, and political perspectives over the past half millennium. Whether outlining the legacy of slavery, the roles of women in Brazilian public life, or the importance of political and social movements, *The Brazil Reader* provides an unparalleled look at Brazil's history, culture, and politics.

Excerpts from *Child of the Dark*, by Carolina Maria de Jesus, from *Child of the Dark: The Diary of Carolina Maria de Jesus*, translated by David St. Clair (New York: Penguin, 2003), 43-44, 57, 75-77, 149-50, 154.