



Waste Away: Working and Living with a North American Landfill

By Joshua O. Reno

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Though we are the most wasteful people in the history of the world, very few of us know what becomes of our waste. In *Waste Away*, Joshua O. Reno reveals how North Americans have been shaped by their preferred means of disposal: sanitary landfill. Based on the author's fieldwork as a common laborer at a large, transnational landfill on the outskirts of Detroit, the book argues that waste management helps our possessions and dwellings to last by removing the transient materials they shed and sending them elsewhere. Ethnography conducted with waste workers shows how they conceal and contain other people's wastes, all while negotiating the filth of their occupation, holding on to middle-class aspirations, and occasionally scavenging worthwhile stuff from the trash. *Waste Away* also traces the circumstances that led one community to host two landfills and made Michigan a leading importer of foreign waste. Focusing on local activists opposed to the transnational waste trade with Canada, the book's ethnography analyzes their attempts to politicize the removal of waste out of sight that many take for granted. Documenting these different ways of relating to the management of North American rubbish, *Waste Away* demonstrates how the landfills we create remake us in turn, often behind our backs and beneath our notice.

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Editorial Review

From the Inside Flap

"Waste management in industrial society is designed to be out of sight and out of mind. Joshua O. Reno's vivid account of work on a Michigan landfill illustrates the human consequences of disposal in North America. *Waste Away* is a valuable contribution to our understanding of discards and the people who work with discarded materials."—Carl A. Zimring, Associate Professor of Sustainability Studies, Pratt Institute

"Can waste exhilarate and mortify simultaneously? Can it make you draw closer even while cringing? Joshua O. Reno brings all the dynamism of trash—too often denied or disavowed—into view. He lucidly shifts waste from an afterthought to a front-and-center cultural artifact that explains us all too well."—John Hartigan, Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Américo Paredes Center for Cultural Studies, University of Texas, Austin

About the Author

Joshua O. Reno is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Binghamton University.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Anita Jones:

Here thing why that *Waste Away: Working and Living with a North American Landfill* are different and reputable to be yours. First of all reading through a book is good but it really depends in the content of it which is the content is as delicious as food or not. *Waste Away: Working and Living with a North American Landfill* giving you information deeper as different ways, you can find any reserve out there but there is no book that similar with *Waste Away: Working and Living with a North American Landfill*. It gives you thrill reading through journey, its open up your personal eyes about the thing this happened in the world which is perhaps can be happened around you. You can bring everywhere like in park your car, café, or even in your method home by train. For anyone who is having difficulties in bringing the imprinted book maybe the form of *Waste Away: Working and Living with a North American Landfill* in e-book can be your choice.

Graham Ayala:

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Tammie Turman:

The reason? Because this Waste Away: Working and Living with a North American Landfill is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap this but latter it will surprise you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who else write the book in such awesome way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book have got such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I had been you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

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