Randol Contreras came of age in the South Bronx during the 1980s, a time when the community was devastated by cuts in social services, a rise in arson and abandonment, and the rise of crack-cocaine. For this riveting book, he returns to the South Bronx with a sociological eye and provides an unprecedented insider’s look at the workings of a group of Dominican drug robbers. Known on the streets as “Stickup Kids,” these men raided and brutally tortured drug dealers storing large amounts of heroin, cocaine, marijuana, and cash. As a participant observer, Randol Contreras offers both a personal and theoretical account for the rise of the Stickup Kids and their violence. He mainly focuses on the lives of neighborhood friends, who went from being crack dealers to drug robbers once their lucrative crack market opportunities disappeared. The result is a stunning, vivid, on-the-ground ethnographic description of a drug robbery’s violence, the drug market high life, the criminal life course, and the eventual pain and suffering experienced by the casualties of the Crack Era. Provocative and eye-opening, The Stickup Kids urges us to explore the ravages of the drug trade through weaving history, biography, social structure, and drug market forces. It offers a revelatory explanation for drug market violence by masterfully uncovering the hidden social forces that produce violent and self-destructive individuals. Part memoir, part penetrating analysis, this book is engaging, personal, deeply informed, and entirely absorbing.

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Butter If You Can't Be With the One You Love...Prepare for Drama!, Marlon Green, Feb 1, 2004, Fiction, 301 pages.

Sugar Daddy’s Game , Gregory Dixon, 2008, Fiction, 238 pages. In his quest for cash and beautiful women, Jamell White, a.k.a. Sugar Daddy, runs a game on some of the biggest hustlers on the Gulf Coast, including a psychotic drug dealer, a.

The Last Taboo , Bali Rai, Sep 30, 2011, Juvenile Nonfiction, 272 pages. Simran likes Tyrone from the moment she spots him in the crowd. He’s gorgeous and he won’t take no for an answer. There’s just one problem... Tyrone is black and Simran’s not.

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Slipping A Novel, Yanier Blak Moore, 2005, Fiction, 273 pages. Struggling to deal with his father's suicide and his growing estrangement from his Chicago police officer mother and older sister, seventeen-year-old Donald "Don-Don" Haskill.


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Randol Contreras
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