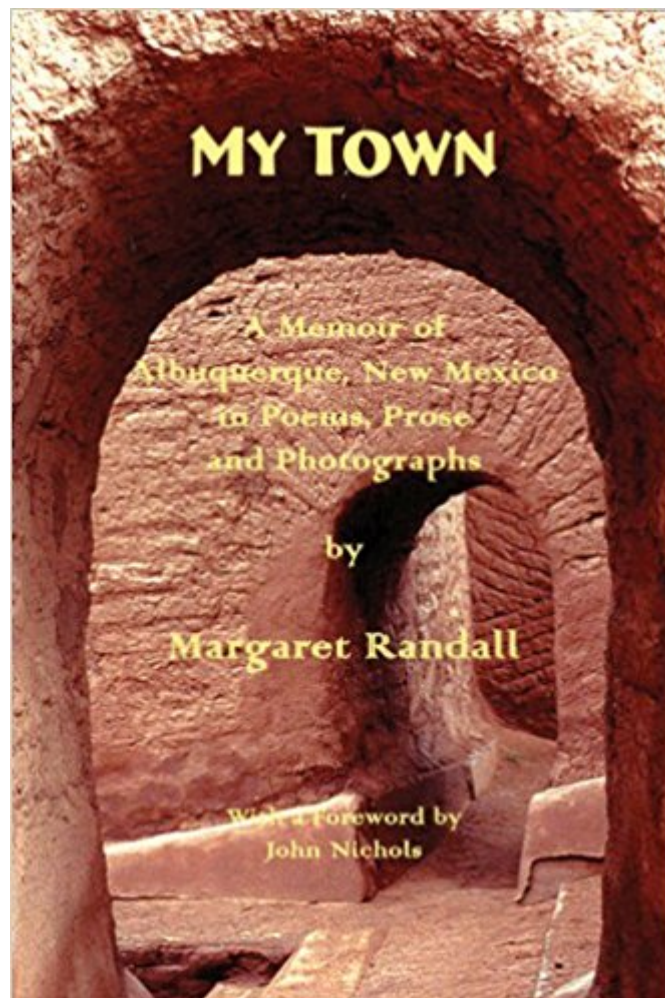




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# My Town: A Memoir Of Albuquerque, New Mexico, In Poems, Prose And Photographs



## Synopsis

Incorporating short prose, photography, and poetry, this memoir celebrates Albuquerque, New Mexico, and recollects how the author's life and the city itself were impacted by Cold War politics, the atomic bomb, McCarthyism, racism, and misogyny. Covering topics such as familial relationships, troubled marriage, lesbianism, and human rights activism, this collection also provides a poetic understanding of the region's history and culture over the past half century. Politically charged, this account highlights inhumane government policies while recounting the history of this Southwestern town.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"An elegy to place, history, and culture, to innocence (and ignorance) that have evolved to a macroscopic understanding of how the world works."—John Nichols, author, *The Milagro Beanfield War*  
"This memoir haunts me in the way that all fine and true writing does. My Town is a celebration of a woman's fully-lived and courageous life, one not to be missed."—Pamela Uschuk, author, *Crazy Love*  
"Will resonate with anyone who has lived in New Mexico, anyone who came up in the 1950s, and many who did neither."—Lucy R. Lippard, author, *The Lure of the Local*  
"Randall's ingenious poetry captures [a lonely woman] exploring space, shapes, light, people and coming of age experiences translated into the brail of a place unconscious of its cultural power and full of hypocrisy, hospitality, racism, and generosity."—Maria Varela, New Mexico community organizer  
"Margaret Randall's *My Town* is an exciting and genre-bending memoir from one of

America's most prolific and socially conscious artists. Her blending of poetry, prose, and photography offers the reader multiple avenues through which to enter My Town's themes of memory and place." *Southwestern American Literature*

Margaret Randall is a feminist poet, writer, photographer and social activist. She is the author of more than 80 books, including *Sandino's Daughters: Testimonies of Nicaraguan Women in Struggle*, *Stones Witness*, and *Their Backs to the Sea: Poems and Photographs*. She lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico. John Nichols is an iconic New Mexico novelist and the author of *The Milagro Beanfield War*. He lives in Taos, New Mexico.

The expression "all politics is local" means that the exertion of power and its consequences are above all not abstractions but immediate concerns where one happens to live one's life. In the case of Margaret Randall's "My Town," as well as her numerous other books, the same could be said for all poetics and all social consciousness, for Randall, who started out her writing career in downtown NYC in the late 1950s before living for over two decades in Mexico, Cuba and Nicaragua, has spent her writing career observing her various localities up close, with a compassion that matches her intelligence and her ethical engagement with others. In her memoir "My Town" she returns to Albuquerque, where she now lives, the city in which she grew up, to see what has changed in it and, in turn, in her as well. Tracing recollections through photographs, poems, and essays, she speaks of place as an extension of her being, and looks back on the 1950s Albuquerque in light of what has changed in those internal and external topographies. Highlights include an essay on the dark secrets of Lovelace Hospital, a poem on community racism and creative writing class, circa the mid 1950s, and moving essays on her relationships to her father ("Dad's Metronome"), another on a onetime love interest named Sam whose life story circles back into her own unexpectedly decades later, and Randall's tender portrait of her earliest champion, the painter Elaine de Kooning.

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