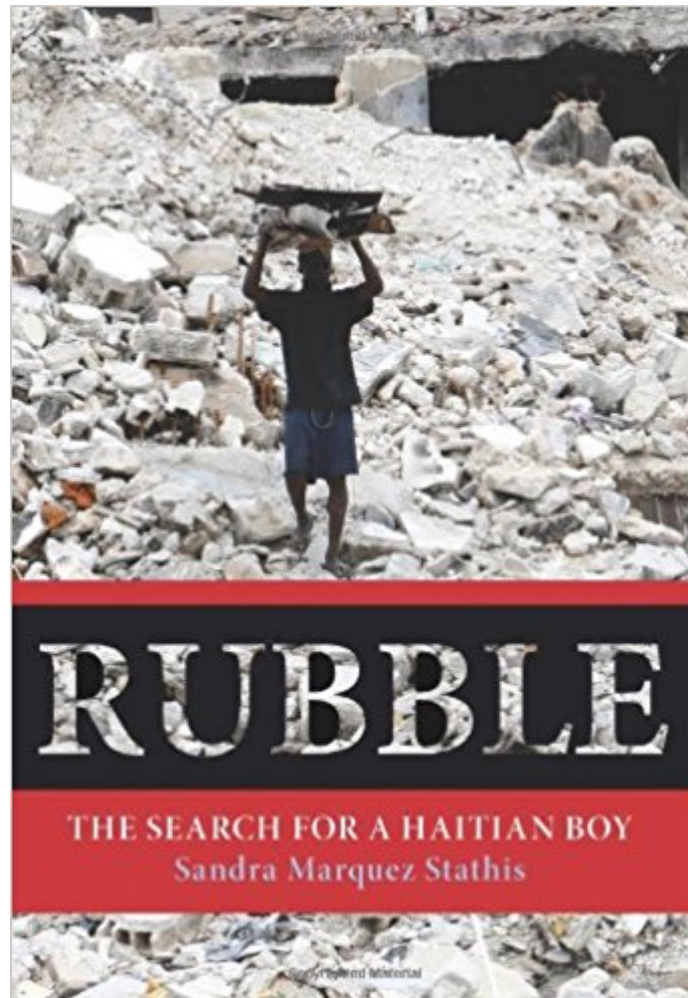


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Rubble: The Search For A Haitian Boy



Synopsis

Marquez provides a powerful portrait of Haiti—both its beauty and pathos—while also telling a tender, emotional story about the lifelong bond she created with an extraordinary young boy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"In Rubble, Haiti and its people are brought to vivid life by Sandra Marquez Stathis, who conveys her quite interesting and heartwarming tale with elegance and expertise." —Oscar Hijuelos, author of *Thoughts Without Cigarettes* and Pulitzer Prize Winner *The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love* "A moving and deeply felt biography of love's persistence amid political, personal and cultural ruins. Rubble: The Search for a Haitian Boy is the story of Haiti told through one of its remarkable children. A finely wrought meditation on commitment and what it means to care for another human being." —Ana Menendez author of *In Cuba I Was a German Shepherd* "Recent scientific studies suggest that the human desire to help others is innate. In journalist Sandra Marquez-Stathis's remarkable first book, that drive is explored in a place where the choices of how to assist are confounding and the ramifications of the decision potentially life altering: Haiti. While Rubble has many of the features of a modern-day fairy tale—a young American human rights observer in Haiti who falls in love with a sweet and charismatic homeless boy, and her subsequent search to find him (almost two decades later) in the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake—it is refreshingly nothing of the sort. Instead, it is a story packed with a candid humility reflecting the complexity of the author's efforts, skills, and

decisions set against a backdrop of a country where political upheaval, unrest, poverty, and foreign intervention had already produced seismic catastrophes well before January of 2010. With her decisions to go to Haiti (both in the 1990s and after the earthquake) and her experiences there, Stathis shows a great deal of introspection and compassion that never remotely teeters toward patronizing or condescension. At times, the author didn't completely comprehend her environment or its people, and at one point even questions some of the aid work done there. Yet, as she came to see that the necessities and truths of survival in Haiti are not "black and white" or linear in logic, but more accurately nuanced and circular, her understanding of the country and culture broadened and her attachment deepened. Haiti took Stathis in, enlightened and adopted her in a way that perhaps only human rights, justice, and aid workers can know. As Stathis recounts her story of Junior (the boy) and Haiti, she includes many individuals who have been drawn to work with the people of this nation. The bond to this adopted land and with each other is never more apparent and poignant than when Stathis mourns the loss of students and faculty from Lynn University in Florida, people whom she has never met. Rubble is virtually void of cultural judgment and full of awe for the pure beauty and brutality that is Haiti. Although most of us will never have the courage to venture as far, or risk as much as Stathis did, by reading her account one can certainly get a vicarious taste of a most momentous life journey."--ForeWord

A remarkable story of friendship and lifelong bonds, set in the turmoil of Haiti Writing as a mother, journalist, and former human rights observer, Sandra Marquez Stathis takes readers on a powerful journey to Haiti, where she lived and worked for four years in the 1990s. Returning in the aftermath of the deadly 7.0 earthquake that struck in January 2010, she embarks on a quest in search of Junior Louis, an unforgettable boy who was seven years old and homeless when she first met him many years ago. Marquez is determined to find out if he has survived the quake and to express her gratitude for his enduring friendship. In so doing, she learns that Junior's story is Haiti's story. In this vivid narrative, Marquez chronicles her soul-etching and life-altering years living and working in Haiti, her deepening friendship with Junior, who is like a son to her, and her post-earthquake journey to find him in the rubble. Rubble is both an eyes-wide-open portrait of Haiti its beauty and its pathos and a tender, emotional story about the author's lifelong bond with an extraordinary young boy.

Written as part memoir, part documentary, this quite moving book tells the story of this troubled country through the traumatic and, finally, uplifting story of a young, homeless boy. The author

clearly knows her subject, having lived in Haiti for many years, and brings a clear-eyed recounting of the country's many problems mixed with an obvious love of her people, especially of one little boy.

I could not put this book down. Having been to Haiti several times in the 50's, 60's and again in '81, I can relate to the topic. The gentle, happy, people of Haiti need the world to see their plight. A huge thank you for bringing their world a little closer to us in such an engrossing way.

I think this book could have benefitted from some serious editing. Too often, I felt that I wanted to be reading this young man's story, but instead, I was reading journal entries. There is a fine story here, but as it stands, it is unfocused. I was disappointed.

This is one of the most beautiful and meaningful memoirs I have ever read. The writer, a former journalist, paints a vivid and lyrical picture of the beauty in Haiti--both in the landscape and the people--and she shows just why so many people who visit Haiti will forever love it. The prose is captivating from the very first paragraph and the story is tender, sweet, and inspiring. The writer first visited Haiti back in the 90's as a human rights observer, when she befriended an orphaned little boy named Junior. The two formed a lifelong bond, and he was like a son to her. They were able to sporadically remain in touch after she left Haiti, but after the earthquake she felt drawn to return to find him, now a twenty-three-year-old. This book also brings to life what's really going on in Haiti today, how many people still live in tent camps, and how desperately Haiti still needs our help. But even in its darker moments, the book is still so full of hope, and it shows just how strong and lasting the bonds of friendship can be.

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